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ABSTRACT

This final performance report for the Libraries of Middlesex literacy project begins with a section that compares actual accomplishments to the following objectives for 1992-93: (1) recruit and enroll at least 150 new volunteers in Basic Reading of English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor training; (2) have at least 125 volunteers successfully complete the training (i.e., have regular attendance and achievement of a passing score on a written final examination); (3) match all those who complete the tutor training with learners; (4) match at least 25 additional learners from the waiting list with previously trained tutors; (5) accomplish all program activities listed in the program description; and (6) achieve a positive termination rate (i.e., ending participation either because educational objectives have been achieved or to enroll in another educational program) of 50% for learners. Proposed and actual expenditures are compared. Activities undertaken are described, including library and instructional materials acquired. The role of the library is discussed; the contributions of other organizations are summarized; facilities used are listed; and the impact of the project is considered. The concluding section provides quantitative data. Attachments include various reporting forms, a collection of student writing, and sample newsletters. (MES)

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**Libraries of Middlesex, Final Performance Report for
Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA)
Title VI, Library Literacy Program**

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**FINAL PERFORMANCE REPORT
LIBRARY SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ACT - TITLE VI
LIBRARY LITERACY PROGRAM**

Part I: General Information

1. Organization: Libraries of Middlesex
c/o Old Bridge Public Library
1 Old Bridge Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857-2498

Participating Institutions:
Public Libraries of:

Carteret
Cranbury
Dunellen
East Brunswick
Edison
Highland Park
Jamesburg
Metuchen
Middlesex
Milltown
Monroe
New Brunswick
North Brunswick
Old Bridge
Perth Amboy
Plainsboro
Piscataway
Sayreville
South Amboy
South Brunswick
South Plainfield
South River
Spotswood
Woodbridge

2. Contact Person: Elissa Director
(908) 679-1004
3. Grant Number R176A20219
4. Amount Awarded: \$57,069
Amount Expended: \$57,069

PART III - NARRATIVE REPORT

I. Provide a comparison of actual accomplishment to the goals and objectives set forth in the approved application. Describe any major changes or revisions in the program. Explain why established goals and objectives were not met, if applicable.

The Libraries of Middlesex, a consortium of 24 libraries in Middlesex County, New Jersey, provided free tutoring to 366 adults during the grant period. Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex (LVM) was responsible for conducting the project. There were no major changes or revisions in the program with respect to activities, staffing, or budgeting.

Six measures of program quality were described in the proposal's evaluation plan. The outcomes for each of these will be used to measure the project's success in achieving its goals and objectives.

- 1. Recruit and enroll at least 150 new volunteers in Basic Reading or ESL training during the grant period.** A total of 198 volunteers were recruited and enrolled for tutor training.
- 2. Have at least 125 volunteers successfully complete the training. Successful completion will require regular attendance and achievement of a passing score on a written final examination.**

Of the 198 who attended the training sessions, 162 successfully completed the training (82%). Thirty-six trainees (18%) dropped out prior to completion of training or failed to pass the written examination.

- 3. Match all those who complete the tutor training with learners.**

Statistics for the 162 volunteers who achieved tutor certification status during the grant

period are as follows: 150 - Matched with learners after completion of training (93%); 11 - Not available to tutor when match attempted (7%); 1 - Match for tutor not yet found.

4. Match at least 25 additional learners from the waiting list with previously trained tutors during the grant period.

A total of 269 learners were matched with tutors during the grant period. This includes the 150 students matched with new tutors trained during the grant period and an additional 119 learners from the waiting list.

5. Accomplish all program activities listed in the program description. The project not only completed, but exceeded all activities listed in the plan of action. The following is a summary explaining each activity.

1. Confer with other literacy providers and community based organizations to reconfirm cooperative agreements, avoid unnecessary duplication, and explain goals and activities of the federal grant.

The project director and members of the LVM outreach committee met on a regular basis with social service agencies, community based organizations, and other literacy providers such as Headstart, New Brunswick Housing Authority, Outreach Workers Association of St. Peter's Hospital, Abundant Life Worship Center, and the New Brunswick Adult Learning Center.

2. Recruitment of tutors and learners - Throughout the 12 month period a primary function was to recruit adults in need of literacy services and to expand the base of potential tutors. As this report documents, the project's tutor recruitment and training efforts were higher than projected. The project also matched 119 learners beyond the

150 estimated in the proposal.

3. October 1992 - The first English as a Second Language Tutor Training Workshop was conducted at the Kennedy Library in Piscataway.

4. October 1992 - The first Adult Basic Reading Workshop was conducted at the Kennedy Library in Piscataway.

5. October 1992 - ESL International Dinner

Approximately 250 tutors, learners, and family members attended an international "pot luck" dinner at Johnson and Johnson Corporate Headquarters which provided an opportunity for social interaction and cultural exchange.

6. November 1992 - Basic Reading Continuing Education Seminar for Trained Tutors
Dr. Suzanne Offen, chairwoman of the New Jersey Optometric Association, presented a seminar on "How Vision Problems Affect Reading" at the Edison Public Library.

7. January 1993 - Publication of LVM Newsletter (copy attached)

8. January-February 1993 - Second ESL Tutor Training Workshop was conducted at the East Brunswick Library.

9. February 1993 - Second Basic Reading Continuing Education Seminar for Trained Tutors

Elissa Director, the project's director, conducted a workshop on teaching writing to adult new readers at the Kennedy Library, Piscataway.

10. March 1993 - First Continuing Education Seminar for ESL Trained Tutors

New materials in the Libraries of Middlesex ESL collections were presented by Pearl Teller, LVM's ESL specialist. A tutor support meeting was also conducted during which

tutors and LVM staff discussed successful tutoring techniques, instructional materials, and problem situations.

11. April 1993 - Publication of book of student essays, In Our Own Words (1993 edition attached)

12. April-May 1993 - Second Basic Reading Tutor Training Workshop was conducted at the New Brunswick Public Library.

13. May 1993 - Annual Tutor/Learner Recognition Program and Awards Ceremony
Approximately 350 tutors, learners, and supporters attended a reception hosted by Johnson and Johnson. Tutors received certificates of appreciation and learners received certificates of academic achievement. Three learners from the program served as keynote speakers.

14. May-June 1993 - Third ESL Tutor Training Workshop was conducted at the East Brunswick Public Library.

15. June 1993 - Continuing Education Seminar for Basic Reading Tutors

The LVM staff presented a video demonstrating negative teaching styles and their effect on the adult literacy student. The video was followed by general discussion and tutor observations. The presentation concluded with a review of materials in the adult literacy collections in the Libraries of Middlesex.

16. July 1993 - Completion of Annual Report for LVA National Office (copy attached)

17. August 1993 - Publication of second edition of LVM newsletter (copy attached)

18. August 1993 - Continuing Education Seminar for Basic Reading Tutors

A repeat of the workshop "Teaching Writing to Adult New Readers" was conducted by

Elissa Director at the Edison Public Library.

19. September 1993 - Tutor Training for Basic Reading was conducted at the Kennedy Library, Piscataway. Tutor Training for ESL was begun at the Edison Library.

Several additional activities designed to foster greater student involvement were also initiated during the grant period. First, a Basic Literacy student support group was established and meetings were held on a monthly basis. The project director, assisted by a Basic Literacy tutor, served as facilitators for the meetings. The informal social setting provided a forum which enabled students to freely discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. Students also participated in discussions which led to the creation of a newsletter written exclusively by and for LVM's Basic Literacy students. This project came to fruition with the publication of the first two editions in January and June, 1993 (copies attached).

In order to help ESL students develop their conversational English skills, LVM established conversation groups. These groups were organized by the LVM staff and led by ESL tutors from LVM's program. Each group met once or twice each month to discuss topics which helped to increase their understanding of American culture and customs. Students were encouraged to join a conversation group as a supplement to their tutoring sessions. Thirty students chose to participate in the six groups which met during the grant period.

6. Achieve a positive termination rate of 50% for learners. Positive termination will be defined as someone who ends his/her participation in the program either because his/her educational objectives have been achieved or to enroll in another educational program.

A total of 184 learners terminated during the grant period. Of these, 51 (28%) ended their participation for the above stated reasons. Other reasons for termination were as follows:

- Lack of Interest - 25 (14%)
- Moved from area - 22 (12%)
- Job conflict - 21 (11%)
- Personal problems - 17 (9%)
- Tutor terminated - 12 (7%)
- Unknown - 12 (7%)
- Health - 11 (6%)
- Scheduling conflict - 9 (5%)
- No child care - 3 (1%)
- Transportation - 1 (1%)

A total of 366 learners were served during the grant period (145 - Adult Basic Literacy; 221 - ESL). All tutors were required to submit reports on a monthly basis detailing hours of instruction, methods and materials used, and learner progress. A summary of educational achievements based on tutors' observations yielded the following results:

Basic Literacy learners:

- Increased reading comprehension - 73% (106)
- Increased knowledge of word attack skills (eg., phonetic analysis, syllabication, prefixes, suffixes) - 52% (76)
- Began to read independently outside of tutoring sessions - 35% (51)
- Increased writing/spelling skills - 52% (76)
- Expressed increased self-confidence in reading ability - 22% (32)
- Developed job-related literacy skills - 40% (58)

ESL Learners:

- Increased vocabulary - 96% (213)
- Increased knowledge and usage of correct grammatical structures - 62% (137)
- Increased conversational skills - 87% (192)
- Increased knowledge of survival skills (shopping, banking, employment, etc.) - 52% (115)
- Citizenship education - 22% (48)
- Achieved citizenship - 2% (4)
- Developed job-related literacy skills - 16% (35)

II. Provide a comparison between proposed and actual expenditures by budget category.

The proposal requested \$57,069. Actual budget expenditures totalled \$57,069 and were used in the following categories: a. Personnel - Salaries and benefits for project director and associate director- \$47,963; b. Tutor training materials - \$3,750; c. Library materials - \$3,000; d. Student workbooks - \$2,356. There was no variation in proposed versus actual expenditures for this grant period.

III. Provide specific details as to the activities undertaken.

Specific details regarding program activities have been described on pages 2 through 5 of this narrative report. In addition to these activities, a total of 301 books and 41 audiocassettes were purchased and distributed to the 24 participating libraries for inclusion in their adult literacy collections. These included fiction and non-fiction selections from the Writer's Voices series published by Literacy Volunteers of New York City. Titles included Coal Miner's Daughter, I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Fatherhood and Time Flies, The Best of Dear Abby, It Was On Fire When I Lay It Down, and One More Time. This series introduces adult new readers to selections from some of America's best writers, along with background information, activities, and questions.

Instructional materials designed to teach vocabulary, grammatical structure, and American customs/culture to non-native speakers were selected for the libraries' ESL

collections. The following titles were purchased: Speaking English Naturally (with cassettes), Dangerous English, Picture Stories, Getting Together - A Conversational English Book, and New Idioms in Action.

IV. Describe the role the library played in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives set forth in the approved grant, including whether the library was involved in the project's implementation or as a resource and site only.

By offering free space for tutor training and tutoring, the Libraries of Middlesex consortium, comprised of 24 libraries and their branches, made it possible for LVM to conduct its instructional programs in a cost-effective manner. The participation of every public library in Middlesex County as a tutoring site also insured that each learner had the option of receiving private instruction in a location close to home. Each library served as a resource by maintaining an adult literacy collection, comprised of books and cassettes for adult new readers and ESL students. The libraries disseminated information about the literacy project to patrons and made tutor and student referrals to the LVM office. All libraries extended free photocopying privileges to literacy tutors. This enabled volunteer tutors to prepare instructional materials for their lessons without incurring personal costs.

Although the LVM staff were primarily responsible for the planning, implementation, and supervision of all grant activities, three library directors (New Brunswick, North Brunswick, Old Bridge) served on the LVM Board of Directors, comprising one-fourth of

its membership. They were directly involved in establishing policies and objectives which would enable LVM to assist the libraries in meeting the needs of low literate adults. The project director reported to the county-wide association of library directors at their monthly meetings. This provided an opportunity for library directors and LVM staff to jointly discuss the project's activities, including recommendations for improving programs and services and observations about the project's impact on individual libraries.

V. Provide names of agencies and organizations recruited to volunteer their services for the literacy program or that were involved in the coordination and planning of the literacy program. Describe the nature of their role.

As part of the project's focus on targetting and recruiting adults with low literacy skills, LVM conducted on-site visits to social service agencies and religious institutions throughout Middlesex County to enlist their help. LVM staff and members of the Community Outreach Committee provided information about the library literacy program and the referral process was explained. Through these activities LVM increased awareness about library-based literacy services for adults and strengthened the referral network. Agencies which were visited included: Abundant Life Worship Center, New Brunswick Board of Social Services, New Brunswick Housing Authority, Middlesex County Headstart, Middlesex County Probation Department, St. Peter's Hospital, and Central Jersey Outreach Worker's Association.

VI. Provide the names and locations of libraries and other sites whose facilities were used for this project.

The names and locations of libraries and other sites whose facilities were used for this project include:

Carteret Public Library, Carteret, N.J., Cranbury Public Library, Cranbury, N.J., Dunellen Public Library, Dunellen, N.J., East Brunswick Public Library, East Brunswick, N.J., Edison Public Library (Main Branch and Grove Ave. Branch), Edison, N.J., Highland Park Public Library, Highland Park, N.J., Jamesburg Public Library, Jamesburg, N.J., Metuchen Public Library, Metuchen, N.J., Middlesex Public Library, Middlesex, N.J., Milltown Public Library, Milltown, N.J., Monroe Public Library, Monroe, N.J., New Brunswick Public Library, New Brunswick, N.J., North Brunswick Public Library, North Brunswick, N.J., Old Bridge Public Library, Old Bridge, N.J., Perth Amboy Public Library, Perth Amboy, N.J., Plainsboro Public Library, Plainsboro, N.J., Kennedy Library and Westergard Library, Piscataway, N.J., Sayreville Public Library, Sayreville, N.J., South Amboy Public Library, South Amboy, N.J., South Brunswick Public Library, South Brunswick, N.J., South Plainfield Public Library, South Plainfield, N.J., South River Public Library, South River, N.J., Spotswood Public Library, Spotswood, N.J., Woodbridge Public Library (Main Branch and Fords Branch), New Brunswick Adult Learning Center, Johnson and Johnson Corporate Headquarters, New Brunswick, N.J., Middlesex County Probation Office, Perth Amboy, N.J.

VII. Describe the impact of the Federal project on the ongoing program of the grantee.

Federal funding for this project enabled the Libraries of Middlesex to offer coordinated literacy services, including 12,000 hours of free instruction to 366 adult learners. This would not have been possible through local funding sources. The project also generated increased community awareness resulting in the large number of individuals who volunteered to be trained as tutors.

The project brought the 24 public libraries together to address common concerns. At several meetings of the Libraries of Middlesex, the library directors expressed their need to provide additional services for the county's expanding ESL population. In response, the Federal project staff (LVM project director and ESL specialist) designed and presented a workshop for library staff and volunteers on how to organize and conduct ESL conversation groups for their patrons. Seven libraries (East Brunswick, Edison, Jamesburg, New Brunswick, Old Bridge, Piscataway, and South Brunswick) participated in the training. After receiving training, five of these libraries initiated this program for their patrons with limited English proficiency. Functioning as a library service similar to book discussion groups, the ESL conversation groups provide a structured format to help adults improve their English skills by interactive communication with others.

In summary, the Federal project greatly expanded the literacy services available through the 24 Libraries of Middlesex, and assisted in building a framework for future services. The Federal project enabled the grantee to maintain its role as a major provider of adult literacy instruction in Middlesex County and as one of the largest

volunteer literacy programs in New Jersey. The Federal project provided funding for the staff time and resources necessary to create significant improvements in curriculum development for tutor training and to expand student support services (free instructional materials, student support groups, student newsletter). As a beneficiary of LSCA funding, the Libraries of Middlesex have substantially upgraded delivery of services for adult literacy students and volunteer tutors in Middlesex County, New Jersey.

Part II: Quantitative Data

Provide the following information about this project by filling in the blanks or putting a checkmark next to the answer that best describes your project. If any of the questions are not relevant to this project, write N/A.

1. What is the size of the community served by this project?

- ☐ under 10,000
- ☐ between 10,000 - 25,000
- ☐ between 25,000 - 50,000
- ☐ between 50,000 - 100,000
- ☐ between 100,000-200,000
- ☒ over 200,000

2. What type of project was this? (Check as many as applicable)

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☒ Recruitment | ☒ Collection Development |
| ☒ Retention | ☒ Tutoring |
| ☐ Space Renovation | ☐ Computer Assisted |
| ☐ Coalition Building | ☐ Other Technology |
| ☒ Public Awareness | ☒ Employment Oriented For some learners |
| ☒ Training | ☐ Intergenerational/Family |
| ☐ Rural Oriented | ☒ English as a Second Language |
| ☒ Basic Literacy | (ESL) |
| ☐ Other (describe) _____ | |

3. Did you target a particular population? (Check as many as applicable)

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Homeless | ☐ Homebound |
| ☐ Hearing Impaired | ☐ Seniors/Older Citizens |
| ☐ Visually Impaired | ☐ Migrant Workers |
| ☐ Learning Disabled | ☐ Indian Tribes |
| ☐ Mentally Disabled | ☐ Intergenerational/Families |
| ☐ Workforce/Workplace | ☒ English as a Second Language |
| ☐ Inmates of Correctional Institutions | |
| ☒ Other (describe) <u>Low literate English speaking adults</u> | |

4. If this project involved tutoring, what tutoring method was used?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ☐ Laubach | ☒ LVA | ☐ Michigan Method |
| ☐ Orton-Gillingham | ☐ Other (describe) | |

5. If this project involved tutoring, how was it provided? (check as many as applicable)

☒ one-on-one tutoring ☒ small group instruction
☐ classroom instruction

All Basic Literacy instruction was provided on a one-on-one basis. ESL instruction was provided either one-on-one or in small groups which were usually comprised of 2 students.

- 6.(a) If this project involved tutoring, was the learning progress of the adult literacy students quantitatively measured? ☐ yes ☒ no

(If "yes", identify any tests, questionnaires, or standard methods used and summarize student results.)

- 6.(b) If this project involved tutoring, were qualitative outcomes of student progress documented? ☒ yes ☐ no

(If "yes", briefly describe how progress was determined and summarize student results. You may attach samples of any documents used to record observations or demonstrate outcomes.) All tutors were required to submit monthly progress reports detailing instructional activities, methods/materials used, hours of instruction, and observations about student progress. A summary of each report was recorded in each learner's file. Sample documents for several learners are attached. A summary of student progress based upon tutor observations is detailed in the narrative report.

7. During the course of this project were any of the following items produced? If so, attach a copy to each copy of the report.

☐ bibliography	☐ resource directory
☐ curriculum guide	☒ evaluation report (Annual report for Literacy Volunteers of America)
☐ training manual	☐ survey
☐ public relations audiovisual	☒ newsletter(s)
☐ training audiovisual	☐ other (describe)
☐ recruitment brochure	_____

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8. During the course of this project:

How many adult learners were served? (i.e., individuals who made use of the library's literacy project services in some way) 366
Of those served, how many received direct tutoring service? 366
How many hours of direct tutoring service did they receive? 12,000
How many new volunteer tutors were trained? 162 (certified as LVA tutors)
How many current volunteer tutors received additional training? 100
How many volunteer tutors (total) were involved? 300
How many non-tutor volunteers were recruited? 15
How many service hours were provided by non-tutors? 120
How many librarians were oriented to literacy methods, materials, and students? 24
How many trainers of tutors were trained? 2

Part III: Narrative Report

Provide a narrative report that includes the following information:

1. A comparison of actual accomplishments to the goals and objectives set forth in the approved application. Describe any major changes or revisions in the program with respect to approved activities, staffing, and budgeting, including unspent funds. Explain why established goals and objectives were not met, if applicable.
2. Provide a comparison between proposed and actual expenditures by budget category, i.e., personnel, travel, materials, etc.
3. Provide, as appropriate, specific details as to the activities undertaken -- e.g., if library materials were acquired, describe the kinds of materials purchased; if a needs assessment was conducted, describe the results of the assessment; if training was provided, describe the training and include the dates and topics; if services were contracted out, describe the contractor's activities.
4. Describe the role the library has played in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives set forth in the approved grant, including whether the library was involved in the project's implementation or as a resource and site only.
5. Provide names of agencies and organizations recruited to volunteer their services for the literacy program or that were involved in the coordination and planning of the literacy program. Describe the nature of their role.

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LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MIDDLESEX

MONTHLY TUTORING REPORT

For month of December 1992

Tutor: Linda Gunderson

Student: Don McClelland

Tutoring Location: Old Bridge Public Library

Total number of hours
of instruction for the
month: 10

1. WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED THIS MONTH? :

- . Increased Don's foundational vocabulary.
- . Improved mechanics of writing (clarified use of punctuation marks, worked on using plural forms when indicated, corrected awkward construction, and focused on subject/verb agreement): In Don's article summaries, his coherence is excellent, as is his sense of story & relevant detail.
- . Discussed upcoming "In Our Own Words" to prepare for Don's written contribution.
- . Learned to distinguish some confusing word pairs and letter/sound patterns.

2. DESCRIBE METHODS AND MATERIALS USED (Successful as well as unsuccessful):

- . As homework, made word cards showing sound-alike pairs (homophones), with meanings on back, as an aid for differentiating them for spelling. Utilized dictionary and discussion for word origins.
- . Practiced spelling from dictation using the "300 most frequently used" word list. Spent lesson time going over spelling & discussing confusing word/letter patterns.
- . Structures in Spelling worksheet practice--brought in handmade "morphemes" (prefix, root & suffix cards), to reinforce concept in Lesson 1. Manipulating the forms seemed to help Don understand how flexibly they are used in written language.

3. GOAL(S) FOR NEXT MONTH:

- . Continue working with Structures in Spelling
- . Begin preparing contribution for "In Our Own Words"
- . Improve writing mechanics

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MIDDLESEX

Monthly Tutoring Report #2

3 Lessons - 6 Hours
12/16/92 through 01/12/92

Tutor's Name: Kevin T. Robinson

Learner's Name: Phuong Pham

Location of Tutoring: J. F. Kennedy Public Library - Piscataway

I. What was accomplished this month?

We continued to work heavily on minimal pairs - *Jest-Zest, Pit-Fit, etc.*

Grammar lessons covered Demonstrative Pronouns, Possessive Adjectives, and Descriptive Adjectives.

Phuong is increasing his ability to speak understandably by reading simple writings out loud. He is most concerned about his accent and pronunciation. Reading out loud and having simple impromptu conversations seem to be most enjoyable to him.

II. Describe methods and materials used (successful as well as unsuccessful).

We have continued to use *English: Step By Step with Pictures*, but I am hoping to find a better formal program.

Minimal pairs were taken from *Pronunciation Contrasts in English*.

I have chosen various stories from *The Whistler and Other Stories*, and Phuong has chosen other pieces from the newspaper to read out loud.

III. Goals for next month.

Proceed to other areas of grammar.

Continue with other problem areas of pronunciation (minimal pairs).

Phuong would like to find a job and begin working in June. We will work on skills which are necessary to find a job and skills which will be necessary in performing that job.



Literacy Volunteers of America
5795 Widewater Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13214

Management Form

Report Period: 7/1/92 - 6/30/93

Return by July 31, 1993

Affiliate Name: LV of Middlesex State: NJ LVA # 4259

Person Completing Form: Rose Teepe

Workshops/In Service

Name	# Offered	Hrs/Workshop	# Trained
Basic Literacy: One-to-One	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>89</u>
Conversational English/ESL	<u>3</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>72</u>
Workshop Leader			
Program Management			
Read All About It Vision Problems	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>
Special Reading Problems Learning Disabled	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>
Telephone Tutoring Teaching Writing	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>
Basic Literacy: Small Groups			
Basic Literacy: Combined OTO, Sm. Groups			
Tutoring Reading in Schools			
Tutoring Migrant ESL Fluency	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>30</u>
Teen Peer Tutoring ESL Listening + Speaking Skills	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>
Tutor Support Groups	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>20</u>
Learner Support Groups	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
Reading With Children (Family Literacy)			
Read On! II			
Other (list) <u>Ex. International Dinner</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>200</u>

Resources

Resource Group	Number	Total Contributions
United Way	<u>2</u>	<u>94</u>
Corporations	<u>1</u>	<u>110</u>
Foundations		
Local Government Agency		
County Government Agency State Lib	<u>1</u>	<u>2,580</u>
State Government Agency	<u>1</u>	<u>15,750</u>
Federal Government Agency	<u>1</u>	<u>50,977</u>
Religious Organization	<u>1</u>	<u>50</u>
Service Organization	<u>1</u>	<u>100</u>
Member		
Individual	<u>23</u>	<u>870</u>
Technical Assistance Contracts		
Other (list) <u>Libraries</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>30,980</u>
<u>Registration</u>		<u>1,880</u>
<u>Staff and Expenditures</u>		<u>4,408</u>

Total Number of Paid Staff Full-Time _____ Part-Time 3
Total Annual Expenditures 97,701 EIN# 22-2452769

Computer Use

Does your program use a computer? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If Yes: For program management? ☒ For teaching? _____
What computers does your program use? (Check all that apply)
☒ IBM PC or Compatible ☐ Macintosh ☐ Apple II or Compatible

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Literacy Volunteers of America
5705 Widewater Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13214

Learner Form

Report Period: 7/1/92 - 6/30/93

Affiliate Name: LV of Middlesex County, NJ LVA# 4259

Person Completing Form: Rose Teepe, RBR

Status: To compute the number of active learners on 6/30/93, take the number active on 6/30/92, add the number of learners who entered, and subtract the number of learners who terminated during the year. The number of active learners on 6/30/93 should be taken from last year's Learner Form.

	BL	ESL	Total
1. Active (matched and unmatched) on 6/30/92	86	132	238
2. Added 7/1/92 - 6/30/93	96	146	242
3. Terminated 7/1/92 - 6/30/93	79	121	200
4. Active on 6/30/93 (Line 1 + Line 2 - Line 3)	103	177	280
5. Of the active learners on 6/30/93, those who returned after 1+ year absence			

Of the active learners on 6/30/93 (Line 4: Line 7 + Line 8 should equal Line 4):

6. Matched	103	177	280
7. Tested and Unmatched			
8. Untested and Unmatched			

Instructional Numbers and Hours by Program: For all learners, active and terminated, during the program year. The total for "Number" should equal Line 3 + Line 4 above.

Basic Literacy

Program	Number	Hours
One-to-One	182	4067
Small Group		
Totals	182	4067

Conversational English/ESL

Program	Number	Hours
One-to-One	190	6616
Small Group	108	2506
Totals	298	9122

For these special programs, a learner may be counted in more than one category:

Family		
Corrections	4	112
Migrant		
Workplace		
In School	1	77
Other		
Total	5	189

Family		
Corrections		
Migrant		
Workplace		
In School		
Other		
Total		

Profile: Number of active learners on 6/30/93. The total of each column should equal Line 4.

Age	BL	ESL	Ethnic Group	BL	ESL	Education	BL	ESL
18-24	7	7	Native Amer. Indian			Grade 0-4	13	5
25-44	59	130	Asian	1	114	Grade 5-8	21	12
45-59	22	27	African American	46	43	Grade 9-11	31	61
>60	1	13	Indo European	51	19	H.S. Diploma	29	96
Not Available			Hispanic	6	19	Some College		4
			Not Available	6	19	Not Available		3

Employment Status	BL	ESL	Occupation	BL	ESL	Sex	BL	ESL
Full-time	54	85	Professional	3	3	Male	64	40
Part-time	5	17	Managerial	3	3	Female	39	137
Unemployed	18	2	Clerical	2	12			
Disabled	5	1	Technical	49	26			
Retired	2	6	Service	17	47			
Not in Labor Mkt	7	58	Agriculture					
Seeking Work	7	4	Homemaker		53			
Not Available	7	4	Sales		3			
			Inmate					
			Other (List)		5			
			Not Available	32	19			

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Learner Form, Continued

Profile: (Continued)

Source of Referral	BL	ESL	Income Level	
TV	1		<\$5,000	
Radio	3		\$5,000	
Friend/Family	15		10-14,000	
Employer	1		15-19,000	
Library	10		20-24,000	
Other Agency	3		>\$25,000	
Other Literacy Organization	2		Not Available	
Poster	7		On Public Assistance	
Literacy Hotline	3			
Other (List) Adult Sch.	12			
Not Available	26			

Achievements (See GOLD SHEETS): Those that were met between 7/1/92 and 6/30/93

	BL	ESL		BL	ESL
Citizenship	20	44	Voting		
Driver's License	3	6	Entered other education/training		7
GED (Enrolled/Completed)	7		Library/Creative	10	10
Job/Better Job	41	44	Removed from Public Assistance		
Survival Skills	75	170	Other (List) Positive Attitude	23	42
Parenting	13	19	Attempts new things	19	38
			Does more things alone	10	22

Test Level Applies to all learners tested between 7/1/92 and 6/30/93, including those who terminated.

Number at HEAD level
at last testing (Composite)

A/B	
C/D	
E/F	
G/H	
I/J	
>J	

Number that gained at
least one HEAD level in:

<28 Hours	
28-50 Hours	
50+ Hours	

Number at ESLOA level
at last testing (Composite)

0	
I	
II	
III	
IV	

Number that gained at
least one ESLOA level in:

<28 Hours	
28-50 Hours	
50+ Hours	

Termination For those learners terminated between 7/1/92 and 6/30/93. The total of each column should equal Line 3.

Termination Reasons	BL	ESL	Length of Stay	BL	ESL
Met Goal(s)	8	47	0-6 Hours	21	14
Health/Pregnancy	4	8	7-12 Hours	15	18
Childcare Problems	1	2	13-25 Hours	12	25
Transportation Problems		2	26-50 Hours	14	15
Tutoring Location			>50 Hours	17	49
Lack of Interest	7	9	Not Available		
Moved/Left Area	6	20			
Personal	23	2			
Job Conflict	6	24			
Tutor Termination	13	2			
Tutor/Learner Schedule Conflict	3	2			
Not Available	6	6			
Other (List) Answering Adult N.S.	1				

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Literacy Volunteers of America
8708 Wildewaters Parkway
Syracuse, NY 13214

Volunteer Form Report Period: 7/1/92 - 6/30/93

Affiliate Name: LV of Middlesex State: NJ LVA # 4259

Person Completing Form: Rose Teape

Status: To compute the number of active tutors on 6/30/93, take the number active on 6/30/92, add the number of tutors who entered, and subtract the number of tutors who terminated during the year. The number of active tutors on 6/30/92 should be taken from last year's Volunteer Form.

Tutors	BL	ESL	Total
1. Active (matched and unmatched) on 6/30/92	110	142	252
2. Added 7/1/92 - 6/30/93	49	50	99
3. Terminated 7/1/92 - 6/30/93	50	36	86
4. Active on 6/30/93 (Line 1 + Line 2 - Line 3)	109	156	265
5. Of the active tutors on 6/30/93, those who returned after 1+ year absence			
Of the active tutors on 6/30/93 (Line 4 + Line 7 should equal Line 4):			
6. Matched	101	133	234
7. Unmatched	8	23	31

Trainers, Administrative Volunteers, and Board Members

8. Number of trainers 5 Total of trainers' hours 300

9. Number of all other Volunteers 4 Hours 205

10. Total active Volunteers (as of 6/30/93) 269

(Total Active Volunteers include active tutors, administrative volunteers, board and committee members, trainers, and tutors awaiting assignment as of 6/30/93. Yearly affiliate fees are based on this number.)

tutor Numbers and Hours By Program: For all tutors, active and terminated, during the program year. The total for "Number of Tutors" should equal Line 3 + Line 4 above.

Basic Literacy

Program	Number of Tutors	Instructional Hours	Preparation Hours	Other Hours (travel, conf.)	Total Hours
One-to-One	159	4067	1016	1276	6359
Small Group					
Totals	159	4067	1016	1276	6359

For these special programs, a tutor may be counted in more than one category:

Family					
Corrections	4	112	28	34	174
Migrant					
Workplace					
In-School	1	77	20	20	117
Other					
Totals		189	48	54	291

Conversational English/ESL

One-to-One	141	6251	1563	1881	9701
Small Group	51	1787	447	608	2842
Totals	192	8038	2010	2489	12543

For these special programs, a tutor may be counted in more than one category:

Family					
Corrections					
Migrant					
Workplace					
In-School					
Other					
Totals					

Volunteer Form, Continued

Volunteer Form

Profile: Number of active volunteers in each category. The total of each column should equal Line 4.

Age	BL	ESL	Ethnic Group	BL	ESL	Education	BL	ESL	Income Level
16-24	3	11	Nat. Amer Ind			<12 Grade			<5,000
25-44	58	40	Asian			H.S. Diploma	17	19	5-15,999
45-59	23	43	African Amer.	9	1	Some College	11	26	16-25,999
>60	25	62	Indo Euro.	98	158	Undergrad Degree	22	68	26-40,999
Not Available			Hispanic	1	1	Grad Degree	35	40	>41,000
			Not Available			Not Available	4	3	Not Available
									Public Asst.

Employment Status	BL	ESL	Occupation	BL	ESL	Sex	BL	ESL	Source of Referral
Full-time	62	83	Professional	56	67	Male	24	31	TV
Part-time	5	4	Managerial	12	11	Female	95	125	Radio
Unemployed	1		Clerical	9	24				Friend/Family
Disabled	1		Technical	3	15				Employer
Retired	20	47	Service	6	6				Library
Not in Labor Mkt	11	19	Agriculture						Special Event
Seeking Work			Homemaker	3	7				Other Lit. Org.
Not Available	6	4	Sales	1	5				Poster
			Inmate						PR Talk
			Other (list)						Other (List)
			Not Available	20	43				Not Available

Termination: For those volunteers terminated between 7/1/92 and 6/30/93. The total of each column should equal Line 3.

Termination Reasons	BL	ESL	Length of Stay	BL	ESL
Satisfied with experience, fulfilled commitment	3	12	0-3 weeks	2	
Dissatisfied with experience	1		1-2 months	9	4
Job/school conflicts	13	6	3-6 months	10	7
Moved/Left Area	17	8	7-11 months	2	9
Other affiliate responsibilities	1		1-2 years	13	11
Health/pregnancy	5	2	3-5 years	8	5
Family problems	3	1	6-10 years		
Transportation problems			10+ years		
Not available	7	4			
Other (list) Not interested		1			
Poor Performance		2			
How many tutor terminations coincided with learner terminations?					

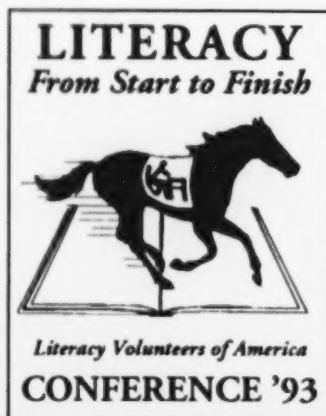
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FALL 1993



ONE *to* ONE NEWS

COME TO CONFERENCE '93



The 1993 LVA National Conference which will be held from October 21 – 23 at the Galt House in Louisville, Kentucky promises to be an exciting and challenging event again this year. Not only will the conference challenge your stamina, as veteran conference goers will verify, but the challenge will also come in choosing from the 87 workshops which will be offered. Special care has been taken to ensure that Conference '93 is a resource for learners, volunteers, paid staff

and board members who are just getting started or who have many years of experience, as well as those in between.

The national conference provides a wonderful opportunity to meet and exchange ideas with leaders in the adult literacy movement, attend stimulating workshops, and get to know and socialize with fellow tutors and learners from throughout the United States. Conference activities will include a variety of social events including a dinner

cruise up the Ohio River on the Belle of Louisville and post-conference sight-seeing tours of Louisville and historic local sites.

If you are interested in attending the conference, please call the LVM office so we can send you a copy of the conference schedule. We hope that LVM will be represented by a large delegation of tutors and learners. Come and enjoy the diverse workshops, wonderful people, and Southern hospitality at Conference '93!

COUNTDOWN TO TUTOR 7

LVA has scheduled September, 1993 as the publication date for *Tutor 7*, the newest edition of the Basic Literacy tutor training handbook. The 3 primary concepts emphasized in this new edition include:

1. The tutor as facilitator — More emphasis is now placed on the learner taking responsibility for his/her

own learning. 2. Early introduction of process writing — The process approach helps new writers to learn that most writing is changed and rewritten several times before it is considered "final." Steps included in process writing include prewriting activities such as brainstorming for words or ideas, writing, discussion of one's writing,

editing, and revising.

3. Expansion of learner evaluation tools — Tutors will learn how to use a multifaceted approach including READ, portfolios of student work, and learner self-evaluations.

The LVA national office has revised Basic Literacy tutor training to incorporate the new concepts included in *Tutor 7*. Throughout the coming year LVA/NJ will re-train experienced Basic Literacy workshop leaders in these methods. LVM will

start using the *Tutor 7* curriculum at tutor training workshops beginning in January. All of our Basic Literacy tutors certified prior to that date will receive additional training through continuing education seminars provided by our affiliate. Any tutor who wishes to purchase a copy of *Tutor 7* (\$12.50) should contact the LVM office.



NAMES IN THE NEWS:

Thanks to:
Laura Amitrano, ESL tutor, for presenting an excellent continuing education seminar to our ESL tutors on "Teaching Grammar Through Communication, Not Rules."

Gerry Carroll, ESL tutor, for helping out in the LVM office on a regular basis.

Continental Insurance, Cranbury, NJ, for printing 700 copies of our 1993 student anthology.

Harriet Davis, for sharing her expertise as a new member of our Outreach Committee.

Melanie Hart, **Candice Howard**, **Irene Marx**, **Ildiko Mezey**, **Bruce Morbit**, **Trevar Riely-Reid**, and **Erica Stewart** for staffing the LVM table at the Hungarian Festival in New Brunswick on June 5.

Debbie Lynch and **Teri Szallai**, Basic Literacy tutors, for helping our office with word processing.

Thom McKiever, Basic Literacy tutor, who also serves as our resident calligrapher.

Thom's masterful hand penned the beautiful calligraphy found on more than 400 certificates received by tutors and learners at our recognition reception.

Joanne Morbit, graphic artist, for assisting with the design and layout of this newsletter.

Congratulations to:
Elissa Director, LVM's Executive Director, for receiving a scholarship to attend the Family Literacy Institute in Louisville prior to the LVA National Conference. Elissa was also chosen to present 2 workshops for ESL tutors at the conference.

Sidney Friedman, Basic Literacy tutor and LVM Board member, for being honored by the Middlesex County Probation Department for his service as a volunteer in their Literacy Enrichment Program.

Linda Gunderson, Basic Literacy tutor, for being chosen to be a presenter at the LVA National Conference. Linda's workshop, "Having Fun with

Print", is designed to help tutors introduce their learners to writing.

Bob Kramer, ESL tutor, for receiving a tutoring award from the Korean American Association of Middle New Jersey.

Sandy Shore, Basic Literacy tutor and LVM Board member, for being selected to become a Management VITA (Volunteer in Technical Assistance) for LVA/New Jersey. Sandy will be sharing her management expertise with LVA affiliates throughout the state.

Doris Trebat, ESL tutor and LVM Board President, for being selected as the recipient of the Literacy Award given by the Middlesex Council of the International Reading Association.

Olinda Young, ESL tutor, for completing the certification program for ESL Workshop Leader.

LVM - our newsletter was chosen as the outstanding lifelong learning newsletter for 1992 by the New Jersey Association of Lifelong Learning.

LVM Board of Directors

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Janice Haraz
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ESL Project Specialist

Office Hours:

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Monday through Friday

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
 Tuesday

Telephone:
 (908) 679-1004

**Share the joy
 of reading
 with a child...**
*and give the gift of
 literacy to an adult.*



joan walsh anglund

For 35 years, acclaimed artist/author Joan Walsh Anglund has charmed readers of all ages with her delightful books for children. Now, Literacy Volunteers of America, in cooperation with the Charleston Mint, has created a fine art ornament featuring Ms. Anglund's work. Each piece is 24 karat gold on fine jeweler's brass, detailed with a baked enamel finish, and is 3 x 3 inches.

Each purchase will help support LVA and our local affiliate. To order, send \$15.00 plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling to: Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex, c/o Old Bridge Public Library, Old Bridge, NJ 08857.





DON MCCLELLAND RECEIVES CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Don McClelland is not just a learner. He is a man who, while broadening his own horizons, wants to help others. Soon, he will

take a giant step in this direction. Don, who lives in Laurence Harbor, was recently awarded a full scholarship to the LVA National Conference in Louisville. Don was offered the opportunity by the LVM Board of Directors based upon his essay which learners submitted as part of the scholarship contest. In his essay, Don wrote that he wanted to "learn more ways to help me, and maybe other students. I would also pick up all the information I could, and bring it back to share with my fellow students."

Don, who will become the first learner from LVM to attend the national conference, said he would like to write an article about the conference and send it into our student newsletter. During the conference Don hopes to acquire the sort of helpful skills now used by his tutor, Linda Gunderson. "I'm so glad I was picked," Don said. "I hope I can learn some more techniques and bring them back to share with other students. Basically, I'm just trying to learn as much as I can so I can help others just as I'm being helped," he continued.

Approximately 80 learners attend the LVA National Conference each year. Don will meet many of them while participating in workshops and seminars designed to address student issues and build student leadership skills.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW TUTORS

These are the graduates of the Basic Reading Tutor Training classes held at the New Brunswick Public Library in May:

Jo-Ann Aronson
June Blash
Barbara Cohen
Gwen Coleman
Maureen Connolly
Linda Costa
Elizabeth Dalina
Carol Donovan
Walter Donovan
Gladys Key
Randi Kohn
Patti Krasny

Lee Laustsen
Joseph Maguire
Lorraine Patsco
Walter Pieniak
Elizabeth Robins
Milton Seiden
Victoria Shockley
Angela Storch
George Taylor
Robert Vant
Constance Zaferiou

February graduates of ESL Tutor Training conducted at the East Brunswick Library are:

Carolyn Ambrose
Leka Anderson
Michelle Balabat

Albert Barreto
Janice Billie
Diane Brown

Lisa Callender
Gregg Christensen
Ruth Coleman
Pamela Dahlen
Janet Dominiecki
Milan Douglas
Jane Feeney
William Heffron
Teresa Hernandez
Carol Kotatis
Lois Ledner

Stanley Makowski
Andrea Milo
Michaela Mole
Beatrice O'Donnell
Janet Owens
Jeanne Reilly
Ann Solomon
Michele Walker
Sandra Whitehill

Graduating in June from ESL Tutor Training were:

Nargis Ali
Richard Caron
Gerald Carroll
Cynthia Coan
Jayan Dhru
Carol Ann Donchin
Rosalie Ginorio
Elinor Gottlieb

Anoop Greywal
Melissa Haveson
Cecelia Joubanoba
Diane Stevens
Cathleen Teitel
Ken Tom
Peggy Turner

LVM UPDATE

LV M has proven again this year that it is a program with dedicated tutors and learners. After compiling reports submitted by our conscientious tutors, we have documented more than 12,200 hours of instruction for the 12 month period ending June 30, 1993. Our annual report submitted to the LVA national office also shows that we now have 265 active tutors providing instruction to 280 learners.

This information, along with evidence of our varied program activities, has helped LVM to obtain generous funding for the 12 month period starting October 1. Our office has just been notified that LVM will be receiving grants from the U.S. Department of Education, New Jersey State Library, and New Jersey Department of Education, Bureau of Adult Education and Literacy. This would not have been possible if we did not have such an outstanding corps of tutors and learners!

A portion of the grant funding has been allocated to improving existing program quality through expanded services and resources for both tutors and learners. We are already working on increased technical support for tutors by providing a minimum of two consultations with each tutor during the year. We will also substantially enlarge the literacy collections in the libraries by adding more than \$6,000 in new books and will continue to make

free instructional materials available to our learners.

Expansion of student support activities will remain a high priority. ESL student support will be offered through our conversation groups which are held in locations throughout the county. We will also explore ways to increase student participation in our Basic Literacy student group and student involvement in other aspects of our organization, from helping in our office, to serving on board committees or our speaker's bureau.

LVM staff will be offering several workshops to the 24 Middlesex County libraries to increase the capacity of general library staff to provide library services for adult literacy students. One workshop will focus on ways that library staff can make libraries more accessible and inviting for adult learners. Pearl and Elissa will also train library staff in how to organize and conduct library conversation groups for ESL students.

LVM also hopes to become involved in a family literacy project. We would like to develop and implement a program which gives parents who are uncomfortable with books and reading the skills and confidence to work with children's literature and reading activities.

The LVM Board of Directors and staff welcome your suggestions for ways in which our program can be improved. Your ideas are vital in helping us to choose new directions and to strengthen our existing program.

Please let us hear from you!

AN EVENING OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND ENTERTAINMENT

Delectable dishes from sushi to spanakopita, will be sampled at LVM's 8th International Dinner. The event will be hosted by Johnson and Johnson at their headquarters in New Brunswick on Saturday, November 13, starting at 6:30 p.m. The dinner will be provided by ESL tutors and learners who will prepare dishes which represent their native cuisine or ethnic heritage.

We are planning a program of international entertainment to follow this delicious meal. All ESL tutors and students who would like to join the coordinating committee should call Pearl Teller at the LVM office. We are also looking for performers (children and/or adults) who would like to entertain us with songs, dances, or music which is traditional to their home country. Please contact Pearl if you or someone you know would be interested in performing at the International Dinner.

CALENDAR

**September 7 -
October 12**

Basic Literacy Tutor Training
Kennedy Library, Piscataway

**September 29 -
November 10**

ESL Tutor Training
Edison Public Library

October 21 - 23

LVA National Conference
Louisville, Kentucky

November 13

ESL International Dinner
Johnson and Johnson,
New Brunswick

BASIC LITERACY STUDENT GROUP TO MEET

After taking a summer break, the Basic Literacy student group will resume its monthly meetings starting on September 15. Meetings will be held once each month from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the New Brunswick Public Library, 60 Livingston

Avenue. The dates for the next 4 meetings are: September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15. These meetings are a great opportunity for students to meet one another, discuss issues of common interest, and plan for the "Step by Step

News", our Basic Literacy student newsletter.

We wish to thank the East Brunswick Friends of the Library for supporting the activities of the Basic Literacy student group. They have recently made a very generous contribution which will cover all printing and

mailing costs for the next two editions of "Step by Step News". Thanks are also extended to Barbara Neves and Mary Bianchetti, who have agreed to serve as tutor facilitators for the student group for a second year.

New Books

The following new books have been purchased by LVM for the literacy collections in the 24 participating libraries in Middlesex County. Tutors should add these titles to their bibliographies. If you decide to use any of these books, please let us know what you think of them.

AN INDISPENSIBLE GUIDE TO DANGEROUS ENGLISH (REVISED) BY ELIZABETH CLAIRE (ESL)

The English language contains many "dangerous" words. These are words that may be embarrassing for the speaker to say, or cause the listener to feel insulted, to become angry, or to judge the speaker in a negative way. Some of the topics covered in DANGEROUS ENGLISH include: 1) the correct scientific words for the sexual parts of the body and sexual activities and the most polite terms to express these ideas; 2) slang and vulgar terms used in English; 3) common words that have "dangerous" double meanings; 4) how to avoid pronunciation problems that may cause embarrassment; 5) words for national and racial groups of people that are either polite or offensive; 6) dangerous nonverbal English gestures.

GETTING TOGETHER BY SUSAN STEMPLSKI, ALISON RICE, AND JULIA FALSETTI (ESL)

This textbook presents activities which help adults learn to communicate effectively in spoken English in real-life situations. GETTING TOGETHER takes an interactive approach by focusing on task-oriented and information-sharing activities for pairs and small groups of learners. Students exchange personal information, discuss real events, solve problems, or perform other specific tasks. Topics such as

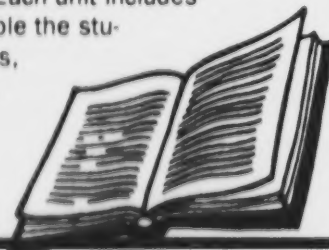
"House and Home" or "Food and Drink" include activities such as paired interviews, role plays, problem situations for discussion, and group decision-making tasks.

NATION BUILDER BIOGRAPHIES - BENJAMIN BANNEKER, MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, BARBARA JORDAN (BR)

These short biographies of important Americans, written at a 2.5 reading level, are a useful way to help students learn essential "reading for information" skills. These biographies weave together social studies themes, historic events, and geographic locations as they tell the stories of African-Americans who have helped build our nation.

PICTURE STORIES - LANGUAGE AND LITERACY ACTIVITIES FOR BEGINNERS BY FRED LIGON AND ELIZABETH TANNENBAUM (ESL)

This is an excellent book for students with limited English ability and little familiarity with U.S. cultural practices. Each of the 16 stories, told through a sequence of 10 pictures, deals with a particular cultural topic such as using the telephone, on-the-job responsibilities, household safety, and shopping etiquette. The experiences of the characters allow students to analyze their own situations, evaluate options, and even anticipate problems before they happen. The humor in the pictures makes them fun to use and encourages discussion. Each unit includes structured activities that enable the student to talk about the pictures, number the pictures in order, match the picture to the printed word or sentence, and write the story.



CONTRIBUTORS

The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff of LVM wish to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous contributions. LVM is a nonprofit organization which relies on contributions and volunteers to provide our vital services.

Alpha Delta Kappa
Jessie Barnes
Gerald Carroll
Corporate Decisions, Inc.
Bernard and Gloria Downey
Dunellen Public Library
East Brunswick Friends of
the Library
Sarra and Mike Genchik
Al Havrilla

Highland Park Public Library
Lynn Hunter
Jamesburg Public Library
Sharon Karmazin
Rebecca Landsman
Metuchen Public Library
Milltown Public Library
Monroe Township
Public Library

New Brunswick
Public Library
Lang and Minh Nguyen
North Brunswick
Public Library
Audray and Jim Noyes
Summer Parrish
Doreen Pringle
Sayreville Public Library
Sara Schemick

Mildred Skot
South Brunswick
Public Library
South Plainfield
Public Library
Spotswood Public Library
St. Cecelia's Rosary
Altar Society
William Wiseman

BOOKS FOR LEARNERS

A grant from the New Jersey Department of Education provided LVM with the funds to purchase free instructional materials for our learners. We have acquired a variety of books for both basic literacy and ESL. Please call the office if you wish to order a book for your learner. Rose will be available to help Basic Reading tutors with their selec-

tions any week day between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. or Tuesday evenings between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m. ESL tutors may call Pearl on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. If your learner has completed a workbook, you may call to request new materials.

We encourage all of our tutors and learners to participate in this free book program. This is an excellent way for learners to obtain materials relevant to their literacy needs.

Old Bridge Public Library
1 Old Bridge Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857-2409

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Step by Step News



*An information exchange for and by the
ABR students of LV-Middlesex County*

Vol. 1 No. 2

July 1993

Thank You All

The staff and facilitators would like to thank all the students and tutors who helped make The Step By Step News a big success.

We've received many positive comments about how much everyone enjoys reading the newsletter. Lots of learners and tutors are using it as part of their lessons and several of the stories in this issue are a result of the students' weekly sessions.

Keep up the good work! And, of course, start sending in your material for the January 1994 issue. We'll need: stories, puzzles, poems, recipes, study tips, book reviews, household hints and EVERYTHING else you've worked so hard on writing.

See the "How To Section" for information on how to submit articles.



Congratulations To:

Don McClelland

LVM has awarded Don a full scholarship to the LVA National Conference to be held on October 21 - 23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

In his winning essay, Don wrote that he wanted, "To learn more ways to help me, and maybe other students. I would also pick up all the information I could, and bring it back to share with my fellow students. I would like to write an article about the conference and send it into the Step By Step News."

About the future, Don says, "I would like to start a club or program organized for and by students. We could talk about ideas that work for us, problems we have, and encourage one another to stay in the LVA program."

Great job, Don. Keep writing!

How I First Met My Teacher

by Gerry Jackson

Other people always had to read for me. One day I made a call and I met a teacher and a friend. I called the North Brunswick Library and they asked me to call the Literacy Volunteers at the Old Bridge Library. My tutor, Richard Kos, called me and I described myself to him. I said I was a black female with a purple coat and then Richard described himself. From there I met my teacher and he helped me a lot.

I saw a coupon in the Sunday newspaper. I wanted the item so badly and I was able to read what it said to find what I wanted.

Now I am able to read 102 words and thanks to my teacher.

Practicing Is What It's All About

by F. B.

I would like to help somebody else to learn. If you are trying to read and write, practice more and having an ambitious teacher helps also. Do your homework and study. The best time to study is when your children are sleeping.

Another thing I found helpful is a "Learn to Read" program that is on Channel 13 at 12:00. Stop making excuses. do something about it. Keep trying. don't quit.

What I Like

by J. C.

Through conversation, I like to get ideas to write about.

I like to work in my garden because it gives me vegetables to eat.

I like to get up at daybreak to walk before I start my day.

I like to go to Florida to fish and go to the beach and visit friends. I will be going to Disney World this time.

At the end of the day I like to eat a good supper.



I Have Started A Better Life For Myself

by Jessie

I have finished "Reading for Today" Unit 1 through Unit 5. I have started reading the book, "Communication for Today." When I started I could not spell at all. I can see some improvement now. I still need to practice sounding out my words. It makes a big difference when you can read and write. People like Literacy Volunteers are very special people to give up their time to help others learn a better life. No one's life is complete without an education.

Book Review
by Unisa Kamara

"Stories from Africa"
by Marguerite P. Dolch

This book helped me to read more than any other book. It is simple and easy to read. People in Africa like to tell stories. These make me think of my country.

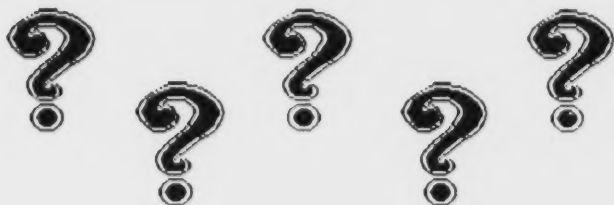
One story, called "The Hunter In The Fog," is about a hunter who went hunting in the fog because he was hungry and wanted something to eat. But he couldn't see any animals. At last he saw a bird and shot it. But he missed the bird and the bird turned into a great big bird. The big bird started to sing a song that frightened the hunter. The story tells what happened to the hunter.

I think anyone who is learning to read would like this book--especially if that person is from Africa.

What Do You Think?

Here's a question for you to think and write about. All answers will be printed in our January 1994 issue.

"What do you think about the Step By Step News?"



Gardening Hint
by Sidney Byrd

In the fall, when the leaves fall off the trees, bag up the soft ones and save them to make mulch. Put them in plastic bags, pile the bags in rows in the garden. Poke some holes in the tops of the bags. Leave them there until the end of the fall. When they're decomposed, dump them out in the garden and plow them under. Scatter lime on top. That makes the garden soil rich.

Answers
To Last Issue's Questions
by Sidney Byrd

Where would you like to go in the summer?

I like to go fishing in the summertime. That's the best time to fish because you don't have any trouble with ice. Fish don't bite in the winter. In the summer, they are ready to eat. They come up to the top and start jumping around.

How do you keep cool in the summer?

I keep cool by using two fans. I keep one big one under the table and I set a small one in front of the window. The cool air is pulled in from the outside shady area under the trees.

Book Review

by Ralph S.

"Frankenstein"

by Mary Shelley

The story was about Frankenstein. Victor Frankenstein made a creature out of parts from a cemetery. He put them all together. The creature woke up and saw how ugly he was. He got frightened and ran away from Victor Frankenstein.

The creature hid in a coal shed. He heard them reading and writing in the room. The man was blind. The kids were there reading to the blind man. The creature went in to see if he could learn. They threw stuff at him--boards, rocks, stuff like that. He ran out and they chased him.

The creature got in a boat and went up the mountain to find Victor Frankenstein and found him. He knew Victor Frankenstein was in the mountains and went to find him to make a wife out of parts from the cemetery like him. He wanted another body to make a wife. He was lonely and wanted a wife. Then he would leave him alone. If he doesn't do that, then he will kill and kill and kill.

What is he going to do? Make a wife or no wife? Does the creature kill anyone?

I thought the book was fair. I just didn't care for it that much. It is a good beginner's book. The print is big and it has small words to help you.

Good News!

Good News!

Good News!

Al Havrilla celebrated 1 smoke free year on April 1st.

Laura Karmin was recently hired as a teacher's aid
at a nursery school.

Don McClelland has been awarded a full scholarship
by LVM to attend the 1993 LVA National Conference.

William Johnson retired in June after 50 years in the work force.

😊😊😊😊😊😊 Tell us all about YOUR good news. 😊😊😊😊😊😊

A Slovak Easter

by Al Havrilla

When I was a little boy my family celebrated a traditional Slovak Easter. On Holy Thursday we prepare our kielbasa, egg, ham, cheese and paske. Paske is an Easter bread. We also make horseradish. Then we take all the food to church for blessing. After the blessing we take it home and put it in a refrigerator for Sunday.

When we get up on Sunday morning we all have to wash ourselves with money. The tradition of washing ourselves with silver coins is based on the story of Judas betraying Christ for 30 pieces of silver. By washing with the coins we get rid of the evil that is represented by money. The silver money is then given to the youngest one in the family to spend.

The food that was prepared on Holy Thursday was put on the table to eat. In addition we had all kinds of cake, candy and beverages. Then we all go to church for Easter Mass. After Mass we all come home and have our feast which continues all the rest of the day.

Upcoming Newsletter Meetings

Meetings are held at the New Brunswick Library, 60 Livingston Avenue, from 7 - 9 p.m. All interested LVM students are invited to attend.

Meetings are scheduled for:

Sep 15 Oct 20 Nov 17 Dec 15

For more information, call the LVM office at 679-1004.

White Water Rafting

by David C.

Saturday morning, we met in the parking lot near the Delaware Water Gap about 7 a.m. The trip was arranged by a church group. It costs about \$42.00, that included lunch.

We had a lecture on what to do if you fell out of the raft. You need to wear old sneakers in case you need to get out to move the raft.

The water is rough. The rocks are sharp. The sun is hot. When the water is calm you start throwing buckets of water at each other to cool down. Everyone was wet. It was a lot of fun.

You stop for lunch. There is a lot of food.

When you get to the finishing point you pull the rafts out and they are loaded on a truck and we go on a bus that takes us back to where we started. Bring dry shoes, shirt and sweatpants to change into for the ride home.

It is an all day trip. It was fun and challenging.

It's YOUR Turn!

Take some time this summer to read a book, keep a daily journal or start a new hobby. Then, tell us all about it by December 10.

Most of all, have a great summer!

Getting A Free Tow The Hard Way

by Don McClelland

August 4, 1992, started out to be a normal day. I got up at 7:15 a.m. I walked to the bathroom and washed my face and combed my hair. Matthew woke up and said, "Are you going to work?" I said, "Yes, I am." Just then, my wife Jayne called and said, "Don't forget your lunch!" As I walked out the door I noticed how hot it was outside. It was near 75 degrees at 7:30 a.m. and was to go into the 90's.

When I got to work everything was normal, until noon. I was eating lunch with Joe (a co-worker), when I got a phone call from the Middlesex Police saying that my van was stolen out of the Pathmark shopping center.

My wife and my two boys were shopping and when they came out of Pathmark, they were looking crazy for the van. Jayne said, "Where did I park the van?" Kevin said, "Right here!" The van was gone. Jayne did not know what to think, but she did not want to upset the boys. But they knew someone had taken it.

So Jayne called the police and reported the van stolen. When the police arrived, they were trying to calm down my wife and kids.

All I was thinking about on my way to pick up my wife and

kids was, were they all right? When I got there, I saw them standing there crying. Kevin said, "Daddy, someone stole our van!" I said I knew, and everything was going to be all right.

When we were driving home I spotted our van parked in an auto dealer's lot. I said, "That's our van!" So I pulled into the lot and parked the truck. I walked inside and said I'd like to see the manager. The manager asked if he could help me. I said, "That van right over there is stolen, and I reported it to the police." Just as I was walking outside I noticed a police car across the highway. I hurried over to tell the officer what was going on. When we drove back to the dealer's, two more police cars had arrived.

We finally found out what had happened. Someone had called the dealer from Pathmark and said, "My van will not start, could someone tow it to the lot?" So when the tow truck driver got there, he towed the wrong van.

He said he was very sorry and that if we ever needed a tow, they would do it for nothing. So my wife and kids got into the van and went home.



Book Review
by Lena M Lovett

Their Eyes Were Watching God
by Zora Neale Hurston

Recently I read "Their Eyes Were Watching God," a novel by Zora Neale Hurston. The main character in the book is an African-American woman named Janie, who lives in Eatonville, Florida. The action takes place in about the 1920's.

I liked the novel because it shows how Janie grows stronger through each of her marriages. In her first two marriages, Janie has to develop her personal strength to overcome her husbands' chauvinistic attitudes towards her. Janie's third marriage is quite different, though. There is no sense of her being dominated in her third marriage because she and her husband see each other as equals.

Janie's first marriage, to Logan Killicks, is more or less a marriage of convenience so that she can be taken care of after her grandmother's death. There is little or no love in this marriage.

Janie's second marriage is to Joe Starks, an ambitious man who provides her with the many things she never had, but he doesn't give her the love and strength that she needs in her life. In fact, he tries to take her love and strength away from her.

In her marriage to Tea Cake Woods, however, Janie finds the love and the laughter that she has always wanted and that she didn't get from her first two husbands. Tea Cake is like an open portal, giving Janie all that she has lacked, and she gives him an equal share of her love and respect.

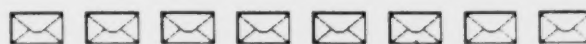
I recommend this book. It kept my interest at all times, and I really enjoyed the story and the message about taking risks and about mutual respect between men and women.

"How To" Section

All material for the newsletter may be typed or hand-written. Don't forget to include your phone number and also let us know how you would like your name to appear (full name, first name, initials, or no name). If you need help, ask your tutor or call the LVM office at 679-1004. The deadline is December 10. Send everything to:

Barbara Neves
51 Judy Drive
Keasbey, NJ 08832-1142

or Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex
c/o Old Bridge Public Library
1 Old Bridge Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857-2498



Newsletter Staff

Editor:	Barbara Neves
Facilitators:	Barbara Neves Mary Bianchetti
Advisor:	Elissa Director

PICNIC WORD FIND

Look at the words in the list below. Then find them in the puzzle. The words may be forward, backward, up, down, or diagonal. Letters may be used in more than one word. Just like a real picnic, this puzzle's got lots of ANTS! Can you find all 12? Good luck, and see you at the LVM Student/Tutor Picnic on July 17th!

ANTS (12)
BASEBALL
BUNS
CHARCOAL
CUPS
FOOD

FRANKFURTER
FUN
GAMES
GRILL
HAMBURGER
HORSESHOES

KETCHUP
LAKE
MUSIC
MUSTARD
NAPKINS
PICKLES

PICNIC
PLATES
RAIN
RELISH
SALADS
SHADE

SODA
SUMMER
SUN
SUNBURN
TABLE

G	Q	G	S	Q	G	C	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	A
S	R	O	D	U	Z	I	I	S	E	G	O	Z	N	N
A	T	I	A	M	N	N	B	Y	O	V	L	T	I	R
U	D	N	L	A	O	C	R	A	H	C	S	O	S	U
X	T	O	A	L	U	I	U	A	S	R	J	T	D	B
S	F	P	S	P	N	P	M	N	E	E	N	S	H	N
A	Y	U	S	K	N	B	I	T	S	A	B	H	S	U
L	S	H	N	J	U	K	R	S	R	P	S	A	I	S
Z	T	C	L	R	P	U	B	A	O	C	T	D	L	E
A	N	T	G	A	F	L	I	H	H	I	N	E	E	L
N	A	E	N	K	K	N	A	G	S	S	A	S	R	K
T	R	K	N	T	D	E	A	T	T	U	E	M	C	C
S	T	A	B	L	E	N	N	R	E	M	M	U	S	I
X	R	S	S	Y	T	A	S	U	A	S	N	U	B	P
F	O	O	D	S	T	N	A	G	D	S	T	N	A	V



Step by Step News



*An information exchange for and by the
ABR students of LV-Middlesex County*

Vol. 1 No. 1

January 1993

First Things First

Welcome to the first issue of the "Step by Step News." A lot of people helped to get this newsletter published. The staff and facilitators hope you enjoy it. If you do, please write in and tell us what you think.

On November 18th, the staff voted on all of the entries of our "Name the Newsletter Contest" and the winner, as you can see, was the "Step by Step News," sent in by Don McClelland.

Don has been working with his tutor, Linda Gunderson since October. He is enjoying their work together and thinks this newsletter is a good idea.

Don sent in several articles for this issue along with his entry to the "Name the Newsletter" contest. He said there's no special meaning to his entry other than to just take each lesson "step by step."

Please Note

The Newsletter staff will be meeting on the third Wednesday of each month. All interested LVM students are welcome to attend. The meetings are held at the New Brunswick Library, 60 Livingston Ave., from 7 - 9 p.m.

Please mark your calendars with the following meeting dates:

JAN 20	APR 21
FEB 17	MAY 19
MAR 17	JUN 16

For more information, call the LVM office. (679-1004)

Study Buddies, Anyone? by Al Havrilla

I am interested in getting together with other ABR students at my reading level. Contact the LVM office if you are interested in studying with another student. (679-1004)

■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■



Pen Pal Practice by "Dad"

One man's favorite pen-pal is his three year old son. He writes postcards at the library, addresses and stamps the cards, and mails them to his son. The latest postcard showed a picture of the "Historic Barnegat Lighthouse." The message he wrote was:

"Would you like to see a lighthouse or be in the boat so the lighthouse can guide you in so the waves do not get you?"

Your Dad

We think other learners might like to write and send postcards when they are meeting with their tutors. All children love to get mail!

~~~~~

Several students have sent in requests for pen-pals. These have been given to the LVM office where all matches will be made. Please call the office for more information on how to be matched with a pen-pal. (679-1004)

## T.V. Studying, And Having Fun Creating Words by Don McClelland

I was starting to do my homework, trying to think of words with the endings from our last session. In my notebook, I had words ending with -ing, -ed,

41

and -ment. I was watching the news on T.V. when I heard the words: comment, government, embezzlement, and environment. These are just some of the words that helped me hear the -ment endings. Once I started hearing the endings, it helped me think of other words for my spelling list. I tried spelling out the words the way they sounded to me.

At my next session we went over my list of words and made corrections by working with moveable alphabet letters. Doing it this way, I feel, helps me see and hear the sounds better than just jotting them down.

By doing this, you can experiment by moving the letters around to get different sounds, and you can see how to create a word or change it. Also, with the moveable letters, you can see the patterns of the different endings in words.

## Civic Crime Watch by J. C.

Civic crime watch helps keep the streets clean of litter, drugs, and prostitution.

We are a group in New Brunswick that works with the police to keep down crime. We patrol at night and inform the police of groups gathering on corners.

The generation coming up needs our help.

## **My Tutor And Myself** *by C. A.*

I attended school for becoming Nurses Aid but it was only for six weeks but that wasn't enough then I said to myself how can I get someone who can explain me of what I am reading.

I had a big problem of reading and understanding of what I read. My supervisor gave me this number and my daughter called and it was the number of Claire. Then she accepted to take the responsibility to show me to read better.

My tutor Claire have the time to explain everything, let me spell the words after her and I repeat it. She was kind patient devoted. She assisted me encourage she had time for me. She praise me to let me know I can do better and then with her help I pass my exam.

Thanks for my tutor Claire's help and her husband that were taking time to take us to this library and waiting for hours. May God bless this tutor Claire and this library.

Claire is someone who's so glad to share so glad to help and care. She is special. Thanks.

---

### **Next Issue's Questions:**

*Where would you like to go in the summer?*

*How do you keep cool in the summer?*



## **My Trip To Nashville, Tennessee** *by Sidney Byrd, Sr.*

I left New Brunswick on June 18, 1992 to go to the National General Assembly of The House of God which was held in Nashville, Tennessee.

It took us 14 hours to drive 897 miles. I stayed there 3 days to go to the services, hear the speakers, and meet other members of the Church.

About 1,000 people attended the Assembly. It was a wonderful gathering. I was happy that the Lord brought me back home safely from that long journey.

---

### **Calling All Students - - -**

The staff and facilitators are waiting to read YOUR articles for the next issue of the "Step by Step News." It will be published in early July and needs all kinds of articles. See the "send in" section on the last page for information on submitting articles. We're looking for:

- > study tips
- > Summer recipes
- > stories
- > household hints
- > puzzles
- > poems
- > book reviews (from the ABR collection)
- > YOUR ideas for other kinds of articles



### **Rice and Chicken** *by Phyllis Dupras*

(NOTE: All spices and ingredients are added "to taste" and the amounts listed are just a guideline. - editor)

- Ingredients:**
- |                                            |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 cloves of garlic                         | 2 large or 4 small onions         |
| 1 green pepper                             | 3 or 4 stems of Spanish parsley   |
| 1 small can of                             | also called Cilantro or Coriander |
| tomato sauce                               | 3 or 4 scallions                  |
| 1 large can of                             | 6 Spanish olives                  |
| chicken broth                              | 4 tsp. margarine                  |
| pepper, oregano and dry parsley (to taste) |                                   |
- 1 chicken, skinned and cut up  
2 1/2 - 3 cups of rice (NOT instant or quick) (rinse the rice twice before adding)

CHOP the garlic, onions, pepper, parsley, scallions, olives and put in a large pot (one that could hold all ingredients, including chicken and rice) along with the tomato sauce, chicken broth and margarine. Simmer until the vegetables are tender.

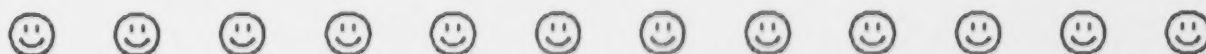
ADD the cut up chicken and continue to simmer until the chicken is almost tender.

ADD the rice along with 1 or 2 cups of water (depending on how much rice you add) and continue to simmer and stir (covered) until most of the liquid is gone. Then cover the pot with aluminum foil AND the pot lid until the liquid is completely gone. The foil will make the rice fluffy. ENJOY!

---

### **Cooking Hint For Tender Collard Greens** *by Sidney Byrd, Sr.*

To have tender collard greens, add about 1/4 teaspoon baking soda to the greens after the water begins to boil. Or the greens can be washed in a mixture of baking soda and water before they are cooked. Then you will have a good dish.



## **You're Not Alone** *by Mary Koutis*

Did you ever meet a teacher who knew more than you or "just the reading part?" I have.

### **TEACHER's ABILITIES:**

Walking, talking, cooking, cleaning, smiling, driving, riding a bike, getting married, having children, running a house, running a business -- and so on.

### **MY ABILITIES:**

All the same -- But can't read as well.

We, the illiterate people of this world must be heard. Many years have passed and, just two weeks ago, I talked to some young people about what happened to them in school and why things had happened to them in school.

I was very sad to hear history is still repeating itself. So, if you are in my list, I would like you to know that we can do something about it.

Yes, yes, you can learn to read and count. Almost every illiterate person works harder than most people but the sad thing is that they work hard trying to please and do the right thing for everyone except for themselves.

If you think I don't know what I'm talking about, the next time you go to work just stop for 5 minutes and see what is

going on around you.

Stop being that person who no one listens to or hears or sees in that big classroom. Keep trying and going to literacy classes. **YOU WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

One day our abilities list will be complete with the help of the Literacy Volunteers of America.

---

## **Houshold Hints** *by Don McClelland*

### **Other Uses For Salt:**

- 1) Rub onto rolling pin for quick clean up.
- 2) Sprinkle on dropped egg for easier clean up.
- 3) Use to dissolve soap suds when cleaning the sink.
- 4) Pour on grass growing in cracks, for easy removal.
- 5) To remove rust stains in clothing, wet the stain with lemon juice, sprinkle on salt and put in the sun.

~~~~~

To get tomato paste out of can without scraping the sides of can. Open both ends of can and push the paste out. This works well with dog and cat food, or anything that is a jell-like substance.



What Do You Do To Cure The Common Cold?

Al Moye says:

One of the things I do to cure the common cold is stay in the warm house. It is also necessary to take medicine and drink lots of fluids like juices.

When I'm ill, I eat some soup like chicken or turkey. It is also a good idea to stay away from other people. After all these things, I lay back with a good book.



J.C. says:

Hot lemon tea and Halls cough drops are best for me.

- - - - -

What Do You Like To Do In The Winter?

From Ralph S:

I like to go to New York to see the lights of Macys. I would like to make Christmas wreaths. It is a challenge.

From J. C:

I like to work in the winter, it's time to make money.

From Al Moye:

There are quite a few things I like to do in the winter. Sometimes there is a lot of snow that comes down. I like to

shovel snow to make some money.

Other times I enjoy staying in the house and keeping warm. I also read some mystery novels because they have a lot of adventure and keep me occupied.

In my spare time when I'm not reading I exercise to stay fit. When it's cold outside I stay in the warm house and take catnaps now and then. And life goes on.

28th Birthday by Frances Jones

1967 seems like such a long time ago but for me it only seems like yesterday.

At the age of four, my hospital stay was a frightening one which I will never forget. Doctors told my mother that there is a one out of every 1,000 cases where children are born with some type of cancer. After an emergency rush to the hospital in an ambulance, it was discovered that I had a malignant tumor in my kidney. My mom was told if we didn't discover it, it would have burst. Needless to say, an operation made my one year stay at Elizabeth General Hospital a long one.

Today, at the age of 28, I wonder if my neighbor, Ms. Kubis hadn't made that phone call, would I be here to write this story. Now I read this story to my six year old son Danny.

FESTIVE WORD FIND

Look at the words in the list below. Then find them in the puzzle. The words may go forward, backward, up, down, or diagonally. Letters may be used in more than one word. Good luck!

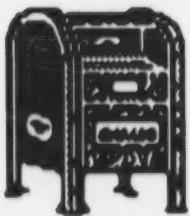
HOLIDAYS
STARS
CHRISTMAS
CORN

TREES
FEAST
READ
GIFTS

KWANZAA
MENORAH
PIE
MOON

CANDLES
HANUKKAH
THANKS

H	A	N	U	K	K	A	H	K	O
O	A	T	H	A	N	K	S	W	S
L	F	R	S	E	E	R	T	A	E
I	E	B	O	G	E	N	A	N	L
D	A	P	I	N	R	O	R	Z	D
A	S	F	I	O	E	O	S	A	N
Y	T	L	C	E	G	M	E	A	A
S	A	M	T	S	I	R	H	C	C



Coming Soon To Your Mailbox

This year the LVA State Conference will be held April 23 - 24 at the Somerset Marriot.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this informative conference. There will be seminars each day for both tutors and learners.

Details will be mailed to you during the next few months.

Thanks Again

Once again, we thank Laura Karmin for helping to get this first issue of the "Step by Step News" out to all of you. Laura volunteered to assemble the entire mailing of over 200 newsletters.

This issue has been mailed to every ABR learner and tutor in Middlesex County. We can't wait to hear what you think about it. Come to the next newsletter meeting and tell us.



Wanted -- YOUR Ideas

The 1993 LVA National Conference will be held on October 21-23 in Louisville, Kentucky. Both tutors and learners are welcome to attend. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet learners from all over the country and to attend some very informative seminars developed just for you.

LVM would like to send at least one learner to the conference on a full scholarship and that's where YOU come in. We need your ideas for how to raise money for this project. Please come to the next newsletter meeting on January 20th with your ideas. Thanks.

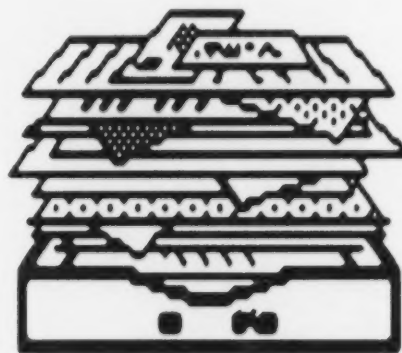
"How To" Section

All articles, pen-pal requests or other material for the newsletter may be typed or hand-written. Don't forget to include your phone number and also let us know how you would like your name to appear (full name, first name, initials, or no name). Remember to ask your tutor to call or write for you if you prefer. Send everything to:

Barbara Neves
51 Judy Drive
Keasbey, NJ 08832-1142

or Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex
c/o Old Bridge Public Library
1 Old Bridge Plaza
Old Bridge, NJ 08857-2498

You may also call the LVM office with your ideas or requests at 679-1004.



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Facilitators: Mary Bianchetti
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Advisor: Elissa Director

Staff: Sidney Byrd, JC Fleming, Albert Havrilla, Bob, Geraldine Jackson, Laura Karmin, Al Moye, Ralph S., Aaron Williams, Fran and Maxine.



In Our Own Words

IN OUR OWN WORDS

In Our Own Words is a collection of writing created by some of the learners in the Adult Basic Reading and English as a Second Language tutoring programs sponsored by Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex. We wish to thank these authors for sharing their ideas, experiences, and achievements and for showing us the powerful ways in which literacy can change lives.

May 1993



LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MIDDLESEX
OLD BRIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
1 OLD BRIDGE PLAZA
OLD BRIDGE, NEW JERSEY 08857
(908) 679-1004

LITERACY VOLUNTEERS OF MIDDLESEX WISHES TO THANK
CONTINENTAL INSURANCE
CRANBURY, NEW JERSEY
FOR UNDERWRITING THE COST OF THIS BOOK.

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WANT TO MOVE AHEAD

J.B. JR.

I was raised on a dairy farm and did not have a chance to go to school. I ask at my church if anyone knew about adult schooling for me and I was recommended to Literacy Volunteers. Where I met my tutor. I think he is the best thing that happen to me. He has patience with me. I am 59 years old and I thank Literacy Volunteers for people like my tutor and others like him.

MY FIRST VISIT TO AMERICA

K.B.

When I came America I like very much here. I came New York City, but I have big problems. I can't speak English and I have no friends. Soon I start night school. I learn speak and read but still I have problems to write. I speak and read fine, but I can't write. Now I find a good tutor, Ann. She helping me how to read and write properly. I hope one day I will learn to write. I really thank you my tutor, Ann.

WHAT'S IN A COLOR

ROBERT LEE BUCHANON

We all need one another in more ways than one. In a crisis, we come together to help one another. We do not look to see the color of the person's skin. It could be a car accident. It could be a natural disaster. In these times we all come running to help. After the event, we all go our separate ways and think our own separate thoughts. As a whole we have to understand the problems of the others. We are brothers and sisters of the world and we should treat each other that way.

MY CAR

SIDNEY BYRD, SR.

I use my car to go to the doctors, shopping center and other different places. I go out of town to churches and funerals. I really need a car for that. I use it for giving family rides and for church business too.

To keep a car running good you need some kind of income. Upkeep is steep. As fast as I pick up a piece of change, it needs something done to it. You need to keep it checked for a grease job twice a year. You need to keep it clean in the inside and the outside. You have to get it tuned up and aligned once a year. You have to keep a spare tire and jack with you all the time.

Insurance is expensive. Insurance is very funny in New Jersey now. You need to have a bone broken or lots of doctor appointments to claim an accident. You can collect property damage. You have to have collision insurance to cover your whole car. It is expensive and it is going to go up from where they are now.

One time in Florida I had a 1935 Pontiac and it almost went head first into a big canal with alligators in it. I was so scared. But I got it in reverse before I had to jump out of it. And I was happy when I got that car on top of that road.

Now I have a 1981 Pontiac station wagon. My sons got it for me for a Father's Day present and they paid it off. I've had it 8 years now. I like it because it is maroon. You can carry five people inside and it got room in the back for hauling things.

The best place to keep a car is in the yard or garage but I don't have either. I have to keep mine on the street. You are taking chances to keep it on the street, but you have to do it. One time I had a brick through the front window of the car. I also had the hub caps stolen off it too.

The only time you can really miss a car is when it breaks down and you have to put it in the shop. If you have a good running car you certainly feel better.

THREE PASSIONS I HAVE LIVED FOR

VANIA LUCIA CARVALHAES

Different people have different passions. And these passions are important in our lives. These passions are what keep us going. These are three passions that I have lived for: my personal satisfaction, travel, and love.

The most important concern in my life is to achieve personal satisfaction. I believe that to have a good relationship with others, first we need to be satisfied with ourselves. We have to be satisfied with who we are and what we are doing. I have seen people who don't have what could make a person happy, such as, money and health; however, they are satisfied with what they have. They found their purpose in life and they are happy with the way they live. We can see it in the way they confront their obstacles in life.

One of my passions in life is to travel. Since I started thinking about myself, I have become afraid to stay in the same place my whole life. I knew that there were many things to see and to learn in the world. I always wanted to know about other people's cultures and habits: what they think, feel and need. The way people from different cultures see their own lives always fascinated me. I knew that from one culture to another, religious beliefs and family traditions influence their priorities. I wanted to learn and to understand how these traditions change people's lives.

Another important passion in life is love. It is because love never fails and life will not fail as long as there is love. And the worst destiny that a human being can have is to live and to die alone, without loving and being loved. I don't believe will power or time can change a man; however, the love can change. Love can change your life for the better. When you are loved and love, the obstacles of life become easier. I always wanted someone who walks beside me, instead of behind or in front of me. I think it is one of my passions that I have achieved because I am surrounded by people whom I love and who love me.

From my passions, I think love is the only one that I have achieved. I'm surrounded by people whom I love and who love me. About travel, I took my first step when I came to the U.S.A. from my country. About finding my personal satisfactions, I need to know much more about myself. So, I'm still learning.

I WILL READ

BOB CASOLITE

When I was working for another company, they always told me if I could read and write I could be a better boss. And then they kept taking the job away from me after I did it for many years. And I didn't think that was fair. They should have given me a chance to learn and stuff but they didn't.

And Clark Moeller told me "never let anybody tell you you're stupid because you can't read and write. You are not stupid." And he said that he would help me. He was going to get a teacher for the dyslexia.

And when this is over I will read. And it will be thanks to Fran, my wife, Clark Moeller, and my teacher.

COMING TO AMERICA & MY FAMILY

JENNIFER CHIA

My name is Jennifer Chia. I am Chinese. I was born in Taiwan on January 30th. I came to the U.S.A. in 1980. That year my father-in-law was sick. His right side can not move. So I stayed home to take care of him. My mother-in-law is a nurse. She's working in a hospital. I have a child. His name is Warren. Warren is 9 years old. My husband is working at AT&T. His name is Shawn. I stayed home about 12 years and take care of my family. My mother-in-law was retired. She can take care of my family. So, I went out and got a job. My position is Data Entrance. I put orders into the computer and make invoices. I like it. But I need to improve my English conversation. So I joined this project. I think I will learn more things. I hope I will learn how to read and talk better. I hope my writing and grammar will be better too!

ABOUT E.S.L. PROGRAM

WEI LAN FONG

I came from Taiwan to U.S.A. a long times. My friend told me to have this E.S.L. program. I signed up a long time I still didn't got answer. Past couple years ago, I got a telephone number for this program. I signed up and almost over one year, I got an answer from this program. Therefore I go to Edison Library every Monday. My teacher, April, taught us a lot of things. It included pronunciation, grammar, real-life English, vocabulary, idioms, etc..

I found this program is useful for people came from different country who didn't speak English. Especially a small team will help people to know and make friends from different corners of the world, such as I have met Ms. Li who came from China. In the conversation with each other I even know more Chinese culture than I used to know, as well as American customs. From this program I learned more vocabulary, also learned slang. Sometimes we talk different things such as we discussed working problems. It resolved some problems in my work. So that I got a lot of things from this program and I can make friend with teacher April and Ms. Li. I am enjoying this class very much. In this, I greatly appreciate my teacher April.

MY EXPERIENCE ABOUT DRIVING

H.G.

I am a new driver. I got my driver's license at the time when I was in the United States for two months. At that time I couldn't understand spoken English although I could read some English.

One day, I drove my car to go shopping. I made left turn at an intersection. Then I saw a police car following me with flashing lights but I didn't know what's wrong with me.

The policeman told me to sit in my car, show him my driver's license and answer some questions.

"Do you know you violated the traffic rule?" The policeman said.

- What?
- Can you speak English?
- A little.
- "Why did you make a left turn before the opposite vehicle passed?" he said slowly and told with his hands.
- Really?

I really forgot what happened at that moment because I was so scared and so nervous.

- You did.

- Oh...oh...

- I couldn't speak any words.

The policeman went back to his car. I thought I would get a ticket. So I put my head on the steering wheel to wait for the thing that would be coming.

After minutes I turn my head backwards. Oh my God. The police car had already gone. I was so lucky I could go without getting a ticket. But I will never forget the experience.

LANGUAGE EXPERIENCE STORY

GLENN

I have problems reading. I have a mind. I can plan. I can remember. I have fought union grievances and won. I can set up a job, and I can read a blue print. I am good with my hands. But I am in tears because I can't read. Reading medications worries me the most. I would like to read a scripture in church. I want to read to my kids, especially the younger ones. My real goal is to get my high school diploma. I have prayed for this opportunity to learn to read.

I LOVE TO RIDE MY MOTORCYCLE

ALBERT HAVRILLA

From the time I was a young man I have enjoyed riding motorcycles. Riding along I like the feel of the wind in my face as the air blows by. I feel free as a bird and as if I'm on a cloud. It reminds me of the way I felt when I rode a horse on my father's farm. A motorcycle is my iron horse.

When I was 17 I bought my first bike, a black 1938 Harley and got my motorcycle driver's license. I joined the Jersey Rangers Motorcycle Club because many of my friends belonged. On weekends we would ride together and go to racetracks in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania to watch motorcycle races. The Club had other activities such as dances and working on old time bikes. We learned how to control the bikes better by climbing hills and driving around obstacle courses.

I also became a member of the Perth Amboy Police Reserves that was started by some of my motorcycle friends who were policemen. They figured that if there was a war or some other emergency we could be used as messengers if telephone lines were down. We could travel better on a bike than we could in a car.

In 1950 I had a very bad accident with my Harley when I was coming back from the shore. I was coming around a curve near the Victory Bridge when I hit some sand and lost control of my bike. I wrecked my bike but I was lucky. I only got a few bruises. But

I bought another bike - a 1946 Indian, a Chief. It was a big bike. I love my big bikes.

In 1954 I met a young woman and we married. We both rode with the Club, she was a passenger on my bike. We travelled by bike to many places throughout the Northeast. When my children started coming along the first thing I had to do was get rid of my poor little old bike. I was very sad about it but if you need money you have to sell some things.

After the children grew up - I think it was 1975 or 1976 - we bought another bike. One day we were talking to a fellow in a campground and he said his son had a bike. He wanted his son to get rid of it and said I could have it for \$100. It was a Kawasaki, a 400 cc. I bought it.

I taught my wife how to drive a motorcycle and she got her license. I gave her the Kawasaki and she would take it out by herself and ride around. I didn't want to be a passenger on her bike so I bought another motorcycle. It was another Kawasaki and a bigger 750 cc one. The two of us then were able to travel together riding side by side. But I had trouble with the Kawasaki because it bothered my back riding it on a long distance run. I had to sell it. At about the same time my wife sold her bike since we could not ride together.

It was not until 12 years later, in 1992, that I again rode a bike. It happened this way. My daughter bought a motorcycle and she asked me to teach her how to drive. Getting back on the bike gave me the urge again to become a motorcyclist. I am riding again

and this time with my daughter. She has a green and white 1992 Harley and I have a 1971 blue Harley. Mine is a "full dresser", completely equipped with such things as saddle bags, a luggage rack, windshield and crash bars.

Both my daughter and I belong to another bike club. It is the Edison, N.J. Chapter of the Harley Owners' Group (HOG), with headquarters at the Harley-Davidson dealer on Route 1 in Edison. All the riders have nicknames. Mine is Biker Al and my daughter is Boots. I'm riding once more and enjoying it. I feel like a young kid all over again.

LETTER TO MY FRIEND IN CALIFORNIA

HUONG HO

Dear Trang,

I'm sitting on the chair in my house and thinking about you. The weather is cold. Everyday I wear two shirts and two sweaters, do you see me ugly? Don't laugh at me!

In a few minutes I'm going to college on the street near my house. I'm taking ESL class. I can't find a job because I don't speak English well. Such a thing doesn't make me feel sad because near to me there are still many good teachers and many friends. They always help me to learn English.

I'm living in a house with parents and my sisters. My father is very old and my mother is too. My sisters are studying English. My family is happy. I love them.

This Christmas we are planning to go to California because the weather is warm and we can visit my grandmother and go to my sister's wedding.

Are you still going to school? What are you studying? Please say "Hello" to your family for me. Write soon.

Old friend,

Huong

LETTER TO MY TEACHER

THU HO

Dear Mrs. Terri,

I would like to tell you about myself. I also hope you understand and help me in learning.

I have been here more than a year with my family. We came here by plane from Vietnam. It was hard for me to leave my home, relatives and my friends, but I wanted to make a new life here.

Right now, I study English every day. I like to write a lot, but I have a very poor vocabulary and grammar. That's why I can not express all that I am thinking. I still feel so lost and stupid. Anyway, with the help of you, I hope you will teach me to study better.

My family and I plan to stay here forever. This is our new home. Could you tell me how to learn better?

Thank you in advance for your help.

Sincerely yours,

Thu Ho

GROWING UP IN THE SOUTH

ANNIE HUNTER

There's a lot to know about Annie Hunter. It was 14 of us, including my mother and father. We grew up on farm in Atoka, Tennessee on the outskirts of Memphis. Some were married and not living at home.

My sister and I had to milk the cows. In the summer, we had to chop the grass away from the cotton so we could pick it. I used to hate picking cotton because it could get as hot as 105 degrees outside.

Also, in the summer, the boys would plow the fields and plant the cotton. My family did the gardening. We grew collard and turnip greens, tomatoes, okra, peppers, potatoes, onions, lettuce and cabbage. There was nothing like fresh food out of the garden especially the tomatoes! My mother and father raised chickens and pigs. We lived in a one family house with 4 bedrooms including living room and kitchen. The bathroom was located outside in the backyard. We cooked our meals on the wood stove. The boys would take the wagon to the field and chop down trees for wood for cooking and heating. There were two horses to the wagon. Every once in a while I would go with them. We used to pick blackberries and fish on the creek.

My sister Cora and I did a lot of work. There was a pail that we let down in the well to draw water for drinking and bathing. I also had fun playing games as a child.

It wasn't always all work and no play. It was a lots of fun that we had. I grew up and had eight children of my own and I have ten grandchildren. When we all get together it's just as much fun as when I was a little girl.

SPEAKING ENGLISH HELPS ME REACH FOR THE STARS

LUZ V. INFANTE

It is very frustrating to speak and hear, but not be able to communicate nor express yourself to the people around you due to a language barrier. It takes a lot of effort to surpass this handicap, but it must be achieved in order for a person to be the most they can be.

There is a great distance from this point to the stars. It is almost like climbing an endless ladder, especially when one's lack of knowledge of the language is evident.

Age, native country or education does not matter when you are ready to make a trajectory that helps you reach the stars. All that matters is that you have determination and dedication.

I came to the United States from Peru in 1981 to begin a new and better life for my daughter and me. The only way that I could do this was to learn the language.

I knew it was going to be hard to be a student again, especially at my age. In addition, not knowing the language as well as I had hoped and being in a new country with unfamiliar customs was frightening. Since I am the only support for my family, I knew I had to face these problems quickly and be successful.

I went to Middlesex County College and I decided to sign up for ESL and then for Chemistry. It was not easy. I had a very difficult time but in retrospect, I don't regret the sacrifices I made. The time and the effort I devoted was overwhelming.

After three years, I received my Associate Degree in Chemistry and found a job. But my communication problems still remained. I still needed help with my pronunciation and writing. I didn't have confidence to speak in a group and express my points of view or ideas clearly. I felt intimidated and lost and knew I could not continue in this situation any longer. I decided to call LVA for help and was very fortunate because after a few weeks a tutor, Mr. Philip Messina, called me. To my surprise, he was working in the same company. Although I didn't know him, when he called me I knew that he was going to help me. I felt that he would help me gain the confidence I needed. We scheduled the first day of class in his office at lunch. Now we meet in the conference room close to my laboratory. The first day I saw him I took a breath of relief and I thought I can be successful. He helped me so much; his patience and dedication are virtues that many people do not have.

He came to every class with something new to teach me and to keep my attention. Every Saturday we meet at Edison library with other students to practice conversation. After two years with Philip Messina, I feel like a new person. I have many friends and I talk to them with much more confidence. I can communicate with others and I can go anywhere and ask or answer any question. I see life very differently now; my heart is full of optimism and I have a new strength inside me.

WHAT I LIKE ABOUT AMERICA

JIAN

I like to live in America because I like the freedom too much. You can say whatever you want to say and you can do about whatever you want to do and also America is plenty country. The fruit is full around the four seasons. Many kind of food is full in the supermarket. Some Chinese stores are over here. It's very convenient for us.

DOMINICA

DEON JULES

I was born in Dominica. There are 365 rivers in Dominica. The largest river is Layou. The highest mountain is Morne Diablotin. It is located in La Plaine.

We grow oranges, coconuts, potatoes, bananas and a lot of different things.

The weather is warm, around 75-100 degrees. Around Christmas it goes down to around 50 degrees. It is a country filled with lots of mountains and very little country roads.

St. Martin, Guadeloupe, Barbados, St. Lucia and Martinique are close to Dominica. There are two different languages, English and French Patois. Roseau is the Capital of Dominica. People play cricket and soccer. The girls play a sport called Rundus.

Dominica has many animals; birds, rabbits, pigs, sheep, snakes and fowl.

Dominica is a very nice little island.

YOU'RE THE LIGHT OF MY LIFE

KATHY K.

I have a nice family. I love to be with them. It makes me feel good to have a baby at my age. I have my own life is being a momma and being family. It feels different than being single. I have no free time to be out with all my old friends. I feel so happy being a family now.

I have a little boy his name is Joey. He is very cute and handsome. He is 2 1/2 years old. It feels good to have him around me. Seeing my Joseph growing up it feels good to be a mother. Joey has a car bed that he sleeps in all the time. My son wears his hearing aide in his ear. His grandparents treat him very good. Joey's hobby is looking at pictures, VCR tapes, books, phones, cats, fish in his room and dogs. I drive my car all the time place to place to help my son talk good. He goes to speech twice a week and therapy once a week. Life goes on in the family too. It is very hard having Joey around it is different than being a free woman you have your eyes on him all the time.

The man in my life treats me good and my son good. I'm a lucky woman to find a man like Nick. He is very cute and good father for Joey. My son loves his father. Nick's hobby is basketball and picking up weights. Nick works for Conrail train to check brakes on trains.

Mom's hobby is to be a good mother to my son Joey, watch TV, watch soap opera name is All My Children, and go to shopping malls and music. I love my son so much and Nick I love so much too. I like to learn how to read for my son Joseph. I love my family very much.

A YEAR OF CHANGE

LAURA KARMIN

In the last year a lot of changes have happened. I got a part time job on Tuesday and Thursdays at a Nursery School called Oak Tree. I work with four and five year old children. I sing songs with them, I help with snacks, I help them write words and numbers. I even read to them. This is something I could not do last year. Just last month I was certified in CPR. The Red Cross came to the nursery school where I work and we learned CPR. I passed the test and got my card.

I'm a fan of All My Children. I have joined a fan club and get newsletters that my tutor and I read.

I have learned a lot but sometimes it is hard to convince other people this is true, but I'll keep trying.

Because of what I went through, I am making sure the same thing does not happen to my two children. I help them with their homework every day. I learn along with them.

NO NEW WORK

MIKE KOOKLIN

I am looking for work all day long in this world. So now this week is going by and I don't have a job. When will I find a job in this world I don't know. All the time I want to work but I don't have a job. I really try to find work for me. But I know of one thing all I want is to go to work one day in my life. But I like to see that day come. So now more days are here and I don't work at all. Maybe one of the days I will find work for me.

But I don't know?

So now another day goes by and I don't have a job. When will I find a job in this week I don't know. But I am looking for a job every day. So now a month goes by and I don't like it. What will I do if another year goes by. I don't know but I am looking for a job any way. So this is it, no this is not it. I want to work.

So all of my time is used looking for a job. I think not but if I reach out for a job I will find a job one day. So now yesterday is here and another day is here too.

DON'T BE SHY

MILY LEE

One night, when I told my son a story "Don't be shy", I discovered I had to tell this to myself, too.

Six years ago, I immigrated from Taiwan. I felt happy, excited and hopeful at first couples days. Then, everything changed. During the day time, my husband went to work. I stayed at home alone. I had a car, but I didn't know where I could go. I had the phone, but I didn't know who could talk to me. No friends, no relatives, everything was quiet. So, I felt lonely, bored and depressed. My English was so poor, I was afraid talk to someone. I always shy to speak out.

One day, I received a flyer from mailbox that was special program for English as a second language. Maybe this was a key to open my mind. I just tried to connect somebody could help me. After six months, I answered a phone call who was my first tutor - Mrs. Edith Warfield. She told me that she will be my tutor in the future. We met one a week at the library. She said "Don't be shy, speak out anything your think you want to know". She gave me courage and encouraged me to open my mind. A year was past. I had my first baby who kept me busy everyday, so I stopped. After I went back to this program again. Miss Jeanine Sohns was my second tutor. We'd studied together about eight months. Now, my third tutor is Miss Susan Palhidai who had taught me around a year. We talked about many things about U.S.A. and Taiwan. She's a

young and lovely girl. She suggested to me many ways to learn English and let me speak out. I appreciated all three of them who gave me a colorful life during passed years and appreciated L.V.M. this program that gave me three chances to learn English. Now I can listen, read, write and speak, but I know this is not enough for me. Because it is better not best. I want to keep going in the future.

In here, I'll say "Thank you L.V.M you changed my life and give me new hope." I wish each freshman who studies in this program to open their mind. Don't be shy, learning and using are very important to you. At last I should say I will never forget you L.V.M, when I open my mouth to speak out."

WHEN I CAME TO AMERICA

RACHEL LEE

It was a hot summer day when I came here with my 2 year old boy. I've been tired for long travel by airplane, but as soon as I got here I felt fresh because of people's kindness.

I had learned English in my country (Korea) but I found much different pronunciation. I wanted to express myself but they couldn't understand me.

As times go by, my son can speak English much better than me. Children are much easier than adults for learning everything.

I noticed that America has huge lands and natural resources. But what I want to say most is people who have generous minds to try to help other people. That's why God blessed this country, I believe.

Now it is time to take care of myself but after I accomplish my goal a little bit, I will try to help other people, like people who take care of others in America.

TONY'S BIRTHDAY

GUO-WEI LEN

My nephew, Tony is fourteen years old. May 16 is his birthday. He has been in the U.S. for eight years. He is an outgoing person. He loves to play the piano and the violin and joined the band in school. He is a second violinist in the band. He also likes sports very much, such as swimming, bicycling, basketball, baseball, volleyball, tennis, soccer and skiing and joined the soccer team in school. We like him very much.

We went to Philadelphia last Saturday morning and celebrated his birthday with his family and friends. There was a party for his birthday. He invited six friends. His mother made a birthday cake for him early in the morning. His father made a movie about "Tony's Birthday" on a Camcorder, which his grandmother bought for Tony. On his birthday Tony received many gifts.

We had a barbecue in the yard. Three women cooked the beef, sausage and chicken, the others were sitting around the table, talking to each other, drinking soda and eating the snacks, hotdogs and hamburgers, etc. After the barbecue, we stood around the birthday cake with fourteen candles. We all sang "Happy Birthday" to him. First, Tony made a wish, then he blew out the candles, cut the cake and gave everybody a piece. Finally, he opened every gift - the clothes, a pen and the toys. He was very excited, and then, we sat in front of the TV and enjoyed the movie "Tony's birthday".

FROM MY VILLAGE TO YOUR VILLAGE

IZABELA LEQOCKA

I grew up in Dziekanow, a small village about 10 miles north of Warsaw, the capital of Poland. Dziekanow is located between the biggest Polish river, Wista, and the old forest, Kampinos.

In this region of Poland the weather is cooler than in Edison. In the winter, temperatures are often below 0 degrees celsius (32 fahrenheit). Snow covers the ground and it isn't such a rarity like New Jersey. Summers are cool and less humid.

It isn't a typical agricultural Polish village, like villages located far from big cities. Some people are farmers with land big enough to bring in good profits. The others are half farmers - half city workers. They have smaller pieces of land, so they work in the factory in Warsaw, usually 8 1/2 hours a day.

In the evenings and weekends, they till their land and this group of people, to which my parents belong, have only small gardens with vegetables, fruits, and flowers. Their main occupation is working in the factory, school, or office.

Earlier farmers in Dziekanow used to cultivate grain, sugarbeets, and other roots. Now, they cultivate more fruit, vegetables, and flowers in a greenhouse to supply the large cities.

People living in Dziekanow are not the typical farmers, but the village looks typical for Poland because it is so called street-type village. In such a village, all houses have barnyards and other farm buildings behind them. Houses are located close to each other along the main road, which is very often the only road in the village. The roads are very long with a narrow strip belonging to a particular farmer, with buildings located at the end facing perpendicular to the road.

I've been living for 28 years in Dziekanow, since my birth to my marriage. My mother and father were born here, and they grew up here. They still live in the same house which my father built with his own hands after their marriage.

My father's parents lived in Dziekanow their entire lives. My mother's mother still lives here. I know almost everybody in this village and almost everybody knows me.

In Dziekanow, I completed 8 grades of elementary education in 1974. I got the highest grades, so I could enter any secondary school of my choice without any examination. I chose technical high school in Warsaw.

I graduated from technical high school in 1979 and received a computer technician certificate, then I joined a big company working as a computer technician and remained there for 9 years.

I was the only woman working as a technician in the company, and I had working with me 9 men. I was in charge of the data entry system, and I also had to help others with fixing disc

storage, line printers, and tape units. The documentation was written in English, so I had to know some English to be able to read these books and perform my job.

I had to leave my job in 1988 when my son was born. I have two sons, Piotr is 4 and was born in Poland. Michal is 14 months and was born in the United States.

My husband is a computer analyst. He came to the United States 3 years ago to take a job with an American company. My older son and I came here 9 months later, September, 1990.

I left Dziekanow 6 years ago, after my marriage, and I left Poland 2 years ago, but the small village in Poland is close to my heart, and I am sure it will always be.

MY ENGLISH TUTOR

FENG LING LI

Who can believe me that I can write this paper because I never learned English before. But now I can talk with other person. I can read simple sentences and I can go to the store bought something. If I have some question, I can ask somebody.

Do you know why? I am so lucky to have a very good English tutor. Her name is April Allridge. She is very very nice and kind.

I meet her once a week. She teaching me basic of grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation and speech, etc. Sometime she talks about how to work, how to get some information, and nature, condition, and social customs of a people. I really learned a lot of things from her.

Many time asked her question. For example: I have a friend. She is a Jewish person. Her father-in-law died. I know that I should give her more hope and consoles. But I don't know how to do it because the culture is different, me and my friend. I called April. She very very nice told me that.

She also made tape for me correct my pronunciation of English. So my English was improved now.

Everybody knows that each person or family have different difficulties. I think she have too but she always keep the smile and nice.

In this society each people make money. My tutor spent a lot of time to do the volunteer of education. This is offer as a tribute present with all respect! I love her so much and I best esteem her!

All English tutor of Literacy Volunteers of America same as her. You are emblem of American culture! You are emblem of friendship for people of world!

Thank you Miss April Allridge. Thank you tutors of Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex.

MY FAVORITE FOODS

KAREN LIEU

I come from Taiwan. I am Chinese. Taiwan is a small island. The weather is wet and warm. I never see snow. Taiwan has many kinds of fruit. Taiwan fruit is very delicious. Star fruit is a green and light colored fruit. It is juicy, soft, and sweet. Sugar cane is so sweet and juicy and crispy. It is good for your body. It can protect your liver.

In my family, my mother can make noodles by herself. They are different colors. She also makes dumplings and steamed bread.

Taiwan has much seafood. There are many kinds of fish, shrimp, scallops, and clams. Fresh fish can be cooked three different ways: You can steam the fish, fry the fish, or bake the fish or you can have fish soup. Taiwan restaurants will let you pick what you like from the fish tank. I always pick the 20 or 50 pound fish.

But in America, my favorite food is pizza of any kind from Pizza Hut.

MY FAVORITE PLACE

RONG LIN

My favorite place to go is the great lawn located at the Cook Campus of Rutgers University. If I have time, I'd like to go there to enjoy the quiet atmosphere. On the fall season, I usually lie down on the grass and breathe the fresh air. Around me is a wide expanse of dense green grass which rises and falls by the ground. In the gentle breeze, it waves and send the forth wafts of delicate fragrance. On the one side of the lawn, there is a small pond with crystal clear water. Some ducks leisurely swim above the water, and some sleep on the grass near the pond. While I am indulging in all of this, I also watch the spectacular sunset faraway the sky. In this moment, I always appreciate that the life is so wonderful!

FREE TO BE ME

LENA M. LOVETT

I'm a single working mother. I spend most of the day in the homes of my patients, who are sick and elderly. This is part of my job as a Home Health Aide and I enjoy it.

For many years I wanted to improve my reading and writing but found my time very limited. This led me to feel like I was neglecting my own needs.

During a meeting at my daughter's school I came across a brochure containing many programs relating to Literacy skills, and where I could go to inquire about a program that would suit my needs.

I chose Literacy Volunteers of Middlesex because it offered me just what I wanted at the right time and place.

At this time I am working with a tutor once a week and I'm progressing at a level that is sufficient.

I feel that I will be able to read and write with great improvement at the conclusion of this program.

THE STRUGGLE THAT CHANGED MY LIFE

DON MCCLELLAND

When I first went to school, I went to a Catholic school, for four years. By going to a Catholic school, my parents thought I would get a better education. First grade I don't remember a lot, but I do remember my reading book -- you know Dick, Jane, Spot and Sally. We called this sight reading. I did not do well in this kind of reading, but I passed on to second grade. Things got worse.

When in second grade I was the kind of student when called on to read, I was very nervous and read very slowly. I felt that I was not as smart as the other kids, because I could not read as good as they did. I can also remember having a spelling test and not having a pencil so I used a crayon. Even though I didn't do badly on the test, my teacher (a nun) made me take my desk out of the classroom and put it outside in the hall.

I stayed back in second grade, but reading was still not there for me. I still had a problem, which wasn't getting any better. I even went to summer school for a reading class. I still did not catch on. I don't know what my problem was -- and not only was my reading bad, so was my spelling. So because of this, I did not like to read or spell.

Still somehow I went on, and passed through all the grades. I can remember studying spelling words for the Friday spelling test. I hated it, because I just could not sound out or break down the

words. This got so bad that I use to cheat on the test so I would not look bad, and not have the other kids make fun of me.

I know that I was wrong for cheating, but I did not know what else to do. It seemed that my teachers did not care about me, or take the time with me that I needed. Or should I blame my parents for not working harder with me? I just don't know. I wish I did, because this problem followed me all through life.

So I decided I wanted something better in life. I wanted a better job, and to read to my kids. As for my job, I was the person that knew what I was talking about, but could not put it down on paper, and I think that held me to a limited job. That's why I joined L.V.A. for tutoring. In doing so, this helped me so much.

I'm learning how to read better and spell. Also, I'm learning how to write, and this is something I thought I would never do since I got out of high school. But now that I'm learning how to read and write better, I feel better about myself. And that's what's it's all about, feeling good about yourself.

MY LIFE

R.M.M.

I stopped my school at the 7th grade. My Aunty dead at a very young age and so nobody was there to cook at home. I know only Giujarati. I did not know anything beside Giujarati.

I got married and then after eight month my grandmother dead.

After that I had an operation. I give my kidney to my brother. I am very proud and happy because he is doing very well after five years.

I came to America with my husband and children before two years.

TELEPHONE SCAM

ASMA MIRZA

One day I was cooking when I heard the phone ring. When I answered it it was a person who already knew my husband's name.

He asked me "How are you?" I said "O.K. thank you". He said "May I speak to Mr. H?" I said "No, he is not at home. Who are you? I can take a message." He said "O.K. Do you want a membership in the ABC Club? I said "Yes". He said "O.K. You tell me your and your husband's full names and address and I'll send you information about the membership in this buying club." I agreed with him.

After two or three days I received a letter. It said "I have sent you information about the ABC Club meeting at your request and children under 12 years of age are not allowed. The open house date is Jan. 22 and the time is 7:30 p.m."

After two days I received another call from this person and he reminded me about the ABC Club meeting and told me the address. Then, I told my husband that many people buy things more cheaply at the Price Club. My husband agree with me. We decided to leave my son at my brother-in-law's house. His wife would take care of him.

On Jan. 22 the salesman reminded me again. That day we left my son at my brother-in-law's house and at 6:30 p.m. we went

to ABC club. This was almost 10 miles away from my house. We went there at almost 7:00 p.m. They saw our letters and they took my husband's signature and address. After that the person who had called me brought us into an empty room. He told us about the club and showed us different catalogues. After almost half an hour we went to another room. There were more catalogues and many chairs.

They offered us something to drink. I saw almost fifteen or sixteen couples who came there. After that the owner of the company came. He showed us a big map that was on the wall. There were more big dots. He told us there are their companies. They have almost twenty or twenty two big companies. Then he told us if you compare our things with Macy's and JC Penney's you will see a big difference in their prices. If you buy any furniture in \$900 original prices and you buy in sale \$600 we will save you \$300. Everybody says this is very good. He spoke almost one hour.

After that the salesman brought us into another big room. There were many cabinets and more catalogues, table and chairs. Every couple had one salesman who was showing different catalogues and told about the prices.

At that time I saw that it was 10 o'clock. I asked him about membership fees. How much we would pay yearly or monthly. He brought some papers and asked my husband "Can you afford \$2 per day?" My husband said "Maybe".

He told us if you pay \$65 monthly you get a membership in this club. You pay \$190 now you can use a check or credit card and after that you can buy everything at half price. I said to him "O.K. now it is getting late. Because my son is at my brother-in-law's house we must leave. After a few days we will decide and will give you the answer by phone.

He told us "You will not have the chance again. You must decide immediately." I said to him "O.K. Can you give me some paper and a pencil?" He told me that this is not allowed. At that time I had taken my pencil from my bag and I calculated the figures. That person loudly said "You can't do this because this is not allowed. But at this time I figured out that if you pay \$65 monthly you will pay \$780 yearly plus you would pay \$190 the first day. That means you will pay \$970 per year. If you don't buy anything you would pay \$970 in the year for nothing because the money doesn't add on from one year to the next.

Can you imagine that if 5 persons a day agree to do this then 150 people per month paying \$970 total \$1,746,000 per year. That salesperson would receive a lot of money without very much work.

O.K. this is a different story. Now we go back to the ABC Club. That salesperson has seen that I figured out the numbers. So he asked us with a bad voice "Do you want membership or not?" Suddenly his behavior was changed. I said "No". So he said "O.K. bye, bye. Now you can go". Can you think? Did they cheat innocent people or make them foolish?

LUCKY IN AMERICA

MOHAMED K. MOHAMED

My name is Mohamed K. Mohamed. I am married and I have three kids.

I was working as Accounting in mens wear factory and I was dreaming to live in U.S.A. Thank God, I came here. As I expected, the Americans have very good hearts to help anybody needs help. I found that when my house was on fire and I lost everything. I found all my neighbors help me even teaching me how to speak English. And, my teacher he is an American. He is the one teaching me English with my wife.

I can't get over about U.S.A. help many peoples as what they doing with Somalia. They give them food, clothes and medicine. I like to take the chance to say from my heart to the Americans, "GOD BLESS YOU".

MY STORY

ENAYAT SALEM

I am Enayat Salem and I was born in Egypt with a big family. I have five brothers and one sister. All of us grown up together. After I finish college, I was working and marry. Now I have three children. My daughter ten years old. My son seven years old. When we came to America, I was pregnant with my small son and now he is one year old.

I love my family and I gave them all my life. Sometimes I back with my mind to Egypt and I remember my father and mother. How they talked and every holidays with my family. And, I smell air, the beach and I see every beautiful picture in Egypt. But when my small son cry, I wake up in my mind and I know I'm in America.

LOST AND FOUND

RALPH S.

I read in the paper to learn to read and write. I got a person from Middlesex Literacy Volunteers. She said she would call me back when they had an empty tutor, but she didn't know how long. It took five weeks before I knew my new tutor was JoEllen. Then when she called, I knew who my new tutor was. I said I could not make it for an appointment the first week. Then I asked her if she'd call back and she did.

Then I got cold feet. I didn't want to go because I was afraid to find out if I could do it. But she said I could do it if I wanted to learn to read and write. I didn't know there were two libraries in Piscataway. She said not the one on Hoes Lane - the one on Stelton. And I didn't know it. I told her to meet me at the gas station on Washington Avenue and Stelton to find the library. But I was still going to back out again. If she didn't come in time, I was going to go home before I give it a chance. And I didn't know what she was going to say to me.

We went in a little room in the library to see what I know. And we moved to another big room in the library because everybody was using the small room. That's why we picked the big room.

The first day we just discussed what we could do. I started reading them STUPID words - that list of words in the book was the first lesson.

I told her I couldn't read too good but if I want something I go for it - good or bad. So far I'm starting to read a lot better - to write a lot better. My tutor told me I've come a long way because when I came here I couldn't read too good.

I'm learning more and more every day, but I have a long way to go. I'm looking up more material all the time and I look forward on Thursday to learn more - to read and write. So far, I think I'm doing pretty good.

Thanks to my wife to trust me to go out and learn - for better for worse.

STEAMED FISH

SUCHIEN SU

Today I want to tell you about my favorite food, "Steamed Fish". It is a Chinese dish and is very healthy. It is easy to cook, good for every age, and has no cholesterol.

First: You should try to find a fish as fresh as possible.
Using a live one would be the best.
You can go to China Town to find it.

Second: Clean it, then put some salt on the fish body.
The salt keeps the fish fresh.

Third: Cut some scallions, ginger and Chinese mushrooms into slices.
Put a little scallions, ginger and red wine on the top of fish.

Fourth: Steam them for 20 or 30 minutes.

Fifth: It is very important to use "VERY" hot oil.

Sixth: Put the rest of the scallions, ginger and Chinese mushrooms on top of the fish and pour the hot oil onto the fish.

Finally, set up the table and enjoy it with you lover!

EASTER IN POLAND

MARIA SZYPRYT

Easter in Poland is celebrated two days, on Sunday and Monday.

Before, everybody cleans houses and prepares special food. On Big Friday nobody eat meat and drink alcohol, but this is work day.

On Saturday, people paint eggs, put them in basket with slices of bread, meat, cake, fish and salt and take it to the church. The priest bless the food and the people.

On next day the most important meal is the breakfast. Later people go to the church. First day Easter we spend on visiting the family. In the evening children make nest for rabbit, who bring them small presents.

Early in the morning children check the nests. On Monday people go to the church and visit friends. In this day is a special custom. Everybody sprinkles water on each other who go outside come back wet. If young girl is dry on Monday she is not happy because she think nobody like her.

HISTORY - THE LIFE

JESUS TERRONES

When I started in this country which is America, I think too much about the life. Because so that is the second stage of the life. But the language and the shape of the lives of the families is so different to my country. This is very difficult for the people the same my life because almost have to be back all to start again of the new. What I learned in my country and the main point is the English language.

I have many times thanks to God for finding people like Mr. Burton Sutker. I believe a few people exist in this world what gives his hand volunteering. I pray to God for his family having a good health in his home.

Thanks again to him my English is better now than it was at the beginning.

A SATURDAY IN MY LIFE

Y. TSAI

Today is Saturday, January 30th. I went to work in the morning because it was the end of the month. We had to send out all the statements to our customers and my daughter, Casey, had Chinese school. So, I asked her aunt to take her to school. After work, I went to pick up her at school.

On the way home, she told me that she won't go to science museum with her Aunty; that she wants to stay at home with me. I was so mad with her. We started to quarrel. Finally, she changed her mind to end the quarrel and decided to go with her aunt to the science museum. I told her that I will be staying at home to make supper, waiting for her.

After she came back from the museum she told me she had a wonderful day. She should not have quarreled with me.

MY FRIEND

UNISA

I was born in Sierra Leone, West Africa. My father died when I was very young and my mother did not have enough money to send me to school. But I had a friend. We were the same age, and he went to school. When he came home from school, he told me what he had learned. He sang the ABC's to me, just like he did in school. Then we sang them together. That's how I learned the letters.

Later, when I saw words on signs, I asked what the words said. I learned many words that way. Now God has given me a teacher so I can learn to read. When I go to my country someday, I want to read the newspaper.

A LITTLE THOUGHT ABOUT IMMIGRATION

J.H.Y.

Every country has people who want to immigrate to other countries. Some countries highly restrict immigration. Others may have this or that limitation. If you ask me I feel that on the whole, everyone should have the right to be able to leave. That is, as long as they can be accepted by another country where they wish to go.

It's not easy for people to decide to leave their own country. That is an unknown future. They have to face a culture shock, or language barrier and a lot more difficulties that can hardly be imagined. They have to have the courage to try, to struggle and to go through failure. Some might find new opportunities in the new country. Some might improve themselves in the new society. Some might even discover or develop their hidden talents.

At least everyone who immigrates can say they have had a richer, more fuller life. You can not jump to a conclusion that people who want to immigrate or have immigrated from their country do not love their country. On the contrary, many people love their country even more when they are in another country! They might have a greater ability to contribute to their country in the future. So my wish is that everyone should have the freedom to choose!

A DAY IN NEW YORK

J.Y.

New York is one of the famous big cities in the world. There are so many people who are hoping to visit there. I do too. A day after I came to America, I fortunately had an opportunity to go to New York.

On that day, I went to the center of New York by subway. I was very surprised at the subway station because it was so dirty, and graffiti on the wall. A kind of unpleasant quality affected my nose. What a smell! At last, I got off the subway at 42nd street, those big buildings that standing on the avenue were first to hit my eyes as I came out of the subway. I visited a few famous stores like Macy's. The goods there are a feast for the eyes and the quantity of them are much more than that in the other stores but they are expensive!

After that, I visited the Empire State Building - the world's most famous observatory. When I stood on the 102nd floor at 12,500 feet, I felt carefree and joyous. I could see the surrounding countryside and the state of New Jersey. Around noon, I came to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It has a 3,000 European painting collection and is famous all over the world. The wooden sculptures that came from West and Central Africa excited me. I stayed there for long time and almost forgot to go home. Those wooden sculptures are so natural, artistic and very beautiful. They make a lasting impression on me even when I felt tired.

However, I was disappointed in many ways about New York, but I believe that I would like to visit it again if I have the opportunity in the future.

SHOPPING

CHI-WEI YANG

Everybody needs to go shopping to buy something for his or herself. But most people they go shopping not for what they need. Their shopping reason is for cheap and they really save their money? I don't think so.

My family and I arrived at United States almost three years ago. In here everything for us was like a new beginning. We had to buy a lot of things for when we need them and the store prices were sometimes high. So when we had to go shopping we will be very careful to check the catalog and newspaper. It could let me know which store we could take a look. But not every time can we get the information so sometime we walked around the street whole day, and we bought nothing. It not what I want. But I can't change anything. Because the shopping captain is not me. You know who is? Guess? I'm only the driver.

I WISH...

WEI-LI YANG

Sometime I wished I can fly like a bird.

I can fly in the sky.

I can see the ground and grass and flowers and rivers and mountains.

I can fly everywhere if I want.

Daytime I sing a song for the people.

Nighttime I sleep in the tree under the moonlight.

To make people happy is my job.

TO BE A VOLUNTEER

DANIEL ZATREANU

Look around you, look in the history books. For thousands of years the majority of human beings are trying to do things better, are trying to improve the society. The entire life is a struggle against evil. Thousands and thousands of people are wanting to help their peers. There are for-profit institutions, the majority, but there are a lot of non-profit organizations. Millions of people are volunteers in this country and all over the world. What are they doing? They are acting without compulsion or obligations, with their own accord or by free choice.

A volunteer is a special person who cares about the feelings of others, who knows when somebody needs help or is weak; a volunteer has a great love for everyone and she/he is sharing this love. A volunteer is an anonymous person who looks around him to find a friend who is in difficulty. There are a lot of ways to help your peer, but the most abstract, the most beautiful, the most meaningful way is to help somebody improve his/her behavior and more specifically improving knowledge, language, understanding, awareness. This kind of help makes a special movement inside the human soul, this improvement is developing today and tomorrow and continues in the life time of a person. On the other hand with each experience the volunteer's inner feeling is also growing up, his life is more meaningful and purposeful.

Look around you my friend, look and maybe now for the first time you will discover what you did not see before. When you will be able to see these kind of things, when you will be aware of this side of human existence, your life will be better. Nobody can thank, nobody can recompense the volunteers for the job they do. They do not want this award, they do not want fame. They want only a better world. Bless the volunteers.